HE MUSICAL TIMES

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ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

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Conductor: Sir Joseph Barnby.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, at 8.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH."

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Prices: Stalls, ros. 6d.; Arena, 7s.; Balcony (Reserved), 5s.; (Unreserved), 4s.; Gallery (Promenade only), 1s.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, at 8,

SULLIVAN'S

"THE GOLDEN LEGEND."

Artists: Miss ESTHER PALLISER, Madame CLARA POOLE, fr. BEN DAVIES, Mr. CHARLES COPLAND, and Mr. WATKIN MILLS.

THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS.

The Christmas Examinations will be held as follows: Fellowship, Paper Work, January 8; Organ Playing, January 9, 10; Associateship, Paper Work, January 15; Organ Playing, January 16 and 17. The Distribution of Diplomas, F.R.C.O. and A.R.C.O., will take place respectively on January 11 and 18, at 11 o'clock.

The College Library is open daily from 10 to 5, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9, but will be closed for general use on the days of the Examinations.

Members desiring practice on the College Organ and chickens.

Members desiring practice on the College Organ may obtain par-ticulars on application.

The large Hall, and sundry smaller rooms, may be hired for concerts,

meetings, &c.
Prof. J. F. Bridge, Mus. Doc., will deliver a Lecture, on January 26,
Prof. J. F. Bridge, Mus. Doc., will deliver a Lecture, on Manchester,
and will be specially addressed to the Northern Members of the College.
E. H. TURPIN, Hon. Secretary.

Hart Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

BERMONDSEY TOWN HALL.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1895. "ELIJAH."

MISS KATE COVE.
MISS ADA LOARING.
MISS AMY WOOD.
MISS F. SMITH.

Mr. John Probert. Mr. Ager Grover, Mr. Robert Grice, Mr. John McMillan.

Full Band and Chorus (200 performers) of the Bermondsey Settle-ment Choral and Orchestral Union.

Conductor-MR. JOHN E. BORLAND, F R.C.O.

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

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Principal Bass, Royal English Opera House, Covent Garden Opera
House, and Carl Rosa Opera Company;
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Principal London and Provincial Concerts.

The experienced Artists of the above Company can be engaged by Choral Societies for Oratorios, Concerts, and Opera Recitals.

The Special Programmes given by the Burgon Opera Recital Company for some of the most important Choral Associations, Popular Concerts, &c., during the last ten years, viz.:—
PART II.—Baldads or Short Work.

PART II.—Recital in Costume or Evening Dress of Selections from a popular Opera ("Pagliacci," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Faust," "Maritana," "Bohemian Girl," "Martha," "Il Trovatore," "Philemon et Baucis," &c.), are recommended to Choral Societies requiring an attractive Concert. an attractive Concert

l attractive Concert. All particulars (Specimen Programmes, Artists, Press Notices) from r. W. H. Burgon, 8, Marlborough Road, Bedford Park, London. N.B.—Touring terms for convenient dates *en route*. Mr. W. N.B.

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.
Principal: Dr. A. C. Mackenzie.

Lent Term begins Monday, January 14, 1895. Entrance Examination, Thursday, January 10, 1895, at 11. Lectures by Walter Macfarren, Esq., R.A.M., January 16, 23, and 30,

at 3.15.
Prospectus, Entry Forms, and all information may be obtained from
the Secretary.
F. W. RENAUT, Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATED BOARD

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC & ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

LOCAL EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

President-H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.

LOCAL CENTRE EXAMINATIONS. Last day for receiving Forms of Application from Candidates, January 31, 1895. See Syllabus A.

Local School Examinations.

Last day for receiving Applications for Registration from Schools and Teachers of Music, February 28, 1895. See Syllabus B.

Copies of either Syllabus, with full information, will be sent, Postfree, on application to the Secretary, 52, New Bond St., London, W.

GEORGE WATSON, Secretary.

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Prospectus and further particulars of the Secretary.

By order of the Committee,
Victoria Embankment, E.C. HILTON CARTER, Sec.

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The meetings are held at the Royal College of Organists, 24, Hart Street, W.C., on the Second Tuesday of each month, from November to June. Tea and Coffee at 5 o'clock.

A Paper and Discussion thereon at 5.20 p.m. All further informa-

tion on application to
J. PERCY BAKER, Secretary, Willersley House, Old Charlton

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

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Full particulars of Examinations, with copies of former Exam-papers, may be had on application to Dr. Armes, The Bailey, Durham.

LADIES' **ENGLISH** ORCHESTRAL THE ENGLISH LADIES' ORCHESTRAL
SOCIETY (Conductor, Mr. J. S. Liddle, Mus. Bac., Cantab.),
will recommence its practices on Wednesday, January 9, at the Lecture
Theatre, South Kensington Museum (by kind permission of the
Directors). Vacancies for good Violas, Cellos, Basses, Flute, Oboe,
Bassoon, and all Brass Wind. For particulars, apply to the Secretary,
Miss Violet Portal, 8, Beaufort Gardens, S.W.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street.—MR. LEMARE will resume his ORGAN RECITALS on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 5 p.m.

T is proposed, with the consent of the Dean and Chapter, to place a small Stained-glass WINDOW in the Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral, to the MEMORY of the late Dr. S. S. Wesley. All those who admire his Church music, especially his old pupils, are invited to subscribe to this object. Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. C. Lee Williams, Organist, Palace Yard; or, Mr. T. W. G. Cooke, Sub-Sacrist, The Cathedral, Gloucester.

PROFESSIONAL NOTICES.

MISS FLORENCE ARMRIDING (Soprano)
(Pupil of Mr. Shakespeare and Medalist, R.A.M.).
Oratorios, Concerts, Lessons, &c., at 20, Conduit Street. Address,
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MISS ALICE ASHFORD (Soprano) For Concerts, At Homes, &c. 60, Tottenham Court Road, W.

MISS MAUDE BALLARD, A.G.S.M. (Soprano) (Cert. of Merit and Silver Medal, Cert. of Proficiency and Gold Medal, G.S.M.; Gold and Silver Medals, L.A.M.) Oratorios, Concerts, &c. 13, Herbert Road, Stockwell, S.W.

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For Oratorios, Concerts, &c.

Répertoire includes "Messiah," "Creation," "Judas Maccabæus,"
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For terms, address, Mitchell and Briggs, Concert Agents, Leeds

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MISS LILLIE HIRONS, L.A.M. (Soprano) (And Accompanist), Oratorios, Concerts, & Shady Side, Gunnersbury Lane, Acton, W

MISS JESSIE HOTINE (Soprano) Oratorios, Concerts, Operettas, Banquets, &c. Address, Craignorth, 33, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.

MISS JULIA JONES (Soprano) For Concerts, Oratorios, Lessons, &c. Address, 15, St. Thomas's Road, Finsbury Park, N.

MADAME MINNIE JONES (Soprano) Oratorios, Concerts, &c., 30, Farrant Avenue, Wood Green, N.

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sang' W.

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295, Oxford Street, W.; or, Shirebrook Villa, Heeley, Sheffield.

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MR. D'ARCY CLAYTON (Tenor)
88, Lady Margaret Road, Tufnell Park, N.

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Oratorios, Concerts, &c. 70, St. George's Avenue, Tufnell Park, N.

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Spécialité, Oratorio. 24, Glengarry Road, East Dulwich Grove, S.E.

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References kindly permitted to Dr. A. H. Mann, Dr. E. H. Turpin,
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MISS ALICE WOLSTENHOLME (Contralto) For Oratorios, Concerts, &c., address, Radcliffe, Manchester.

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"Madame Powell gave some excellent songs in an artistic manner."

—Clacton-on-Sea News.

4, Melville Road, Edgbaston; or, 2, Oxford Mansions, Oxford Street, W.

Torontorio, Ballad, and Operatic Concerts. The Cathedral, L'pool.

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MR. C. W. FREDERICKS (Tenor)

Of the Trocadero Concerts, Paris; Crystal Palace and St. James's Hall, London; and Hereford Musical Festivals).

Accepts Engagements for Oratorios, Miscellaneous Concerts, &c. Testimonial letters from M. Gounod, M. Guilmant, Sir J. Stainer, August Manns, Esq., and other eminent musicians, with recent Press notices, will be forwarded on application. Mr. Fredericks has had the honour of singing for most of the provincial Choral Societies, and during the past season was favoured with engagements from the following towns (in many instances providing the whole of the solo artists): Manchester ("Messiah"), Rotherham ("Messiah"), Swadlincote ("Creation"), Cirencester ("Elijah"), Rugby (Ballads), Rawtenstall ("Creation"), Newcastle (Miscellaneous), Kentish Town (Ballads), Tunstall ("Creation"), Newcastle (Miscellaneous), Kentish Town (Ballads), Tunstall ("Creation"), Button (Ballads), Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Miscellaneous), Dover ("May Queen"), &C.), Liverpool ("St. Paul"), Tunstall ("Creation"), Button (Ballads), Ampthill ("Hymn of Praise"), Hednesford (Ballads), Matolock Bridge ("Creation"), Buxton ("May Queen"), Camden Hall, London (Ballads), Oakamoor ("Crusaders, &c.), Wimbledon (Miscellaneous), Hereford Cathedral (Oratorio Selections), Bately (Ballads), Belper (Miscellaneous), Lieheld (Ballads), Walsall ("Magic Flute"), Worksop (Ballads), Bradford (Miscellaneous), Hehenor ("Creation"), Madeley ("Judas"), Wigan ("Messiah"), Stapenhill ("Samson"), Old Hill ("Holy City," &c.), Lichfield ("Stabat Mater" and "Hymn of Praise"), Burton (Miscellaneous), Hednesford (Ballads), Redditch ("Hymn of Praise"), Burton (Miscellaneous), He

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The popular Tenor of the North of England. For Oratorios, &c.

"ALNWICK CHORAL UNION.—Mr. Robinson was highly successful, his voice being one of rare power and capable of much tender expression. He sang 'Call forth Thy powers' with splendid dash, and was vigorously applauded."—Alnwick and County Gazette, Feb. 11, 1893.

"Mr. J. Shakespeare Robinson had a magnificent reception, and Dewsbury will be glad to welcome him again. His articulation is distinct, and there is a finish to his vocalism which speaks of careful training and study."—Dewsbury Chronicle.

"Mr. Robinson's singing was characterised by much refinement and boldness."—Halifax Guardian, March 3, 1894.

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Oratorios, Operas, Ballads.
Oratorios, Operas, "The singing of Mr. Thurgate Simpson throughout was delightful; giving a really spirited interpretation of the part allotted to him."—Stretford Guardian.
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BALLADS,—"Mr. T. Simpson's very agreeable tenor voice told well in the impassioned aria 'Come, Margarita, come.'"—Manchester Guardian.
For terms, &c., address, Collyhurst, Manchester.

MR. HORATIO SOMERS (Tenor)

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"Mr. Horatio Somers, whose particularly mellow tenor was heard to a nicety in 'The Last Watch,' which was deservedly encored,'' &c.

(Ramsey, Nov. 6, 1894).—Peterborough Standard.

"Mr. Horatio Somers sang in a beautifully mellow and powerful tenor voice, and he met with much deserved applause on each appearance" (Chatteris, Nov., 7, 1894).—Cambridgeshire Times.

"Mr. Horatio Somers sang with excellent effect, and was encored for his rendering "(Huntingdon, Nov., 9, 1894).—County News.

Terms, Press opinions, references, &c. Manor House, St. Ives, Hunts.

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"The favourite Lancashire Tenor."—Vide Press.
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"A baritone of high order,"—Lancashire Evening Express.

"Has a capital baritone voice. His renderings are always most artistic and musicianly."—Fide Press.

"Is an able artist."—Northern Daily Telegraph.

For Oratorios, Concerts, &c., Briddon Street, Cheetham, Manchester.

MR. J. A. MACFARLANE (Baritone)
For Oratorios, Concerts, &c., 38, Aubert Park, Highbury, N.
Sir Joseph Barnby writes: "I have heard Mr. Macfarlane sing
with much satisfaction and pleasure. He possesses so much warmth
of feeling and energy of style as to cause me, in the first instance, to
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MADAME LAURA SMART (Soprano) requests or Ballad Concerts be addressed, 106, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, S.W.; or, 50, Church Street, Liverpool.

M UNRO DAVISON, F.R.C.O., Solo Alto, Temple Church; Organist and Choir Director, St. Anne's, Holloway; Professor of Singing, Organ and Pianoforte. Altos trained. For Con-certs, Masonie Banquets, Organ Recitals, &c., 142, Stroud Green Rd., N

HENRY BEAUMONT (Tenor) is now at liberty for Oratorio, Opera, or Concerts. Choral Societies are invited to write for terms, &c. Address, Eblana, Lyford Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

MR. W. CARTLEDGE-WHITE (Tenor) requests that all communications respecting Concerts, Oratorios, Operas, &c., be addressed to 7, Guildford Road, South Lambeth, S.W.

MR. SINCLAIR DUNN (Tenor) requests that all communications respecting Concerts, Oratorios, Operas, Lessons, &c., be addressed to him at 67, Berners Street, W.

MR. E. JACKSON (Baritone) is now booking EN-GACEMENTS for Oratorios, Ballad Concerts, Masonic Banquets, &c. For terms and vacant dates, address, Principal Bass, New College, Oxford.

C HANGE of ADDRESS.—Mr. DANIEL PRICE (Baritone), of Westminster Abbey, begs to announce his Change of Address to 9, Clarendon Road, Holland Park, W.

M. MAGRATH (Bass), Associate of the Royal College of Music, returned from Australasian Tour. Booking present season. 25, Elgin Crescent, Kensington Park, W.

M. R. EGBERT ROBERTS (Bass, Conductor, Italian Church, Hatton Garden) requests that all communications respecting Oratorios, Opera, or Concerts be addressed, 45, Pentonville Road, N.

M ISS KATE OULD (Violoncellist). For Concerts, Lessons, Ensemble Playing, &c., 28, Lansdowne Gdns., Clapham Road, S.W. For Press opinions, see Musical Times for Dec. 1893.

M ISS CLARA TITTERTON, Associate and Silver Medalist, R.A.M., First-Class Certificate, Society of Arts, &c., receives PUPILS for the VIOLIN and PIANOFORTE on moderate terms. Lessons given at pupils' own residences. Schools attended. Miss Titterton also accepts engagements for Concerts and at Homes. 4, Ellingham Road, Uxbridge Road, London, W.

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"Master Edgar Ford has a beautiful and sweet voice, and his rendering of 'The Chorister' was loudly encored." — Llandudno Herald, August 18, 1894.

"Master Edgar Ford sang Handel's air 'O had I Jubal's lyre.' He was loudly recalled and gave 'The Chorister.'"—Llandudno Advertiser, August 18, 1894.

"Master Edgar Ford, the celebrated boy vocalist, surprised and delighted the audiences by his sweet singing and his remarkably artistic renderings."—Rhyl Record. September 15, 1894.

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL.—"Master Edgar Ford, the boy sopranc, caused quite a furore by his sweet voice and fine style."—Birmingham Daily Mail, December 17, 1894.

For terms, &c., address, Mr. S. Ford, Avondale, Park Road E.,

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MISS

FANNY DE BOUFFLERS

(SOPRANO)

For Oratorios, Cantatas, Concerts, Operatic Recitals, &c.

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HANDEL'S "SAMSON."

Principal Vocalists: Miss Fanny de Boufflers, Miss Dora Barnard,
Mr. Barton McGuckin, Mr. Bantock Pierpoint.

Band and Chorus of 400.

Liverpool Daily Post, October 31, 1894.—" Miss Fanny de Boufflers acquitted herself admirably, singing her difficult music with taste and precision. The famous and trying air 'Let the bright Seraphim' was very successful, and the singer received hearty commendation from her hearers. 'Ye Men of Gaza' was among her best solo work, and also in the duets with Samson considerable success was achieved."

Liverpool Daily Courier, October 31, 1894.—" Miss Fanny de Boufflers, in all the soprano solos, proved herself an eminently qualified artist. Her voice has a good carrying capacity, and she was heard to advantage in all her numbers. The florid passages in 'Ye Men of Gaza' she rendered with considerable effect, while 'Let the bright Seraphim', one of the most telling airs in the work, she gave with marked ability."

CLECKHEATON PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

MENDELSSOHN'S "HYMN OF PRAISE."

Yorkshire Post, December 6, 1894.—"The principals were Miss
Fanny ide Boufflers, Miss Alice Lamb, and Mr. Iver McKay, who
acquitted themselves admirably. In particular might be mentioned
the soprano air 'Praise thou the Lord,' and the duets for soprano and
contralto and soprano and tenor, all of which were finely sung."

BARNSLEY ST. CECILIA SOCIETY.

HANDEL'S "SAMSON."

Sheffield Telegraph, November 29, 1894.—"The soprano solos were sung by Miss Fanny de Boufflers, and she is to be credited with an excellent interpretation of 'Let the bright Seraphim."

Sheffield Independent, November 30, 1894.—"Miss Fanny de Boufflers sang the numbers allotted to her with great care and feeling, the airs 'Ye men of Gaza' and 'My faith and truth' being much applauded."

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ROSSINI'S "STABAT MATER."

Guardian, December 7, 1894.—"The 'honours' of the evening were fairly divided between Mr. Iver McKay and Miss Panny de Boufflers.

The latter sang with great brilliance in the closing air, 'When thou comest to the judgment,' when the high C rang clearly out above the ff accompaniment of band and chorus."

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Glasgow Mail.—"Miss Fanny de Boufflers contributed much to
the enjoyment of the audience. She refused an encore (thricerecalled)
for a rendering of the Handelian air 'Let the bright Seraphim,' but
on again being enthusiastically recalled after singing 'Should he
upbraid,' repeated a portion of it."

Glasgow Herald.—"A soprano of very considerable worth, receiving
a most emphatic demonstration of appreciation from her hearers."

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"Of the principals, Miss Fanny de Boufflers took the part of Detilah.
Her beautiful articulation in the florid passages of the first song. Ye men of Gaza, 'placed her first favourite; her singing throughout was splendid. 'Let the bright seraphim,' with trumpet obbligato by Mr.
A. Tomlinson, was the success of the evening."—Halifax Courier, December 15, 1894.

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From Dr. C. H. H. PARRY to Mr. BLAXLAND.

"I am glad to have the opportunity of saying that Master Sterndale Bennett, who sang the part of first child in 'Judith' at the Chester Festival, did it most admirably. It has never been better done. He showed remarkable intelligence in phrasing and expression, and I am also indebted to you for giving him such an excellent idea of it. I am very glad I am going to have him for the 'Shepherd Boy' in 'Job,' at Leeds,'—Nov. 10, 1894.

"Writing just after the splendid performance of 'Job,' at Leeds, I am most glad to say Sterndale Bennett acquitted himself surprisingly well in the 'Shepherd's' music, and sang with remarkable intelligence and refined feeling, and gave just the right declamation to give the Cisigned) "C. H. PARRY."

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(Signed) "EDMUND WARD,

"THOS. PIERCY,

Hon. Secs.

"Leeds Philharmonic Society, Nov. 14, 1894."

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"Miss Emily Foxcroft sang with great feeling. 'The dear homeland,' and was presented with a bouquet."—Glasgow Echo, Nov. 28.
"Miss Foxcroft made a fine impression with her first song, Slaughter's 'The dear homeland,' and was rapturously applauded for her subsequent rendering of 'The Lost Chord.'"—North British Daily Mail, Nov. 28.
"Miss Emily Foxcroft sang 'The dear homeland and 'The Lost "Miss Emily Foxcroft sang 'The dear homeland and 'The Lost

Mail, Nov. 28.

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Director of Studies: PROF. BRADBURY TURNER, Mus.B.

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AND SINGING-CLASS CIRCULAR. JANUARY 1, 1895.

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At a moment like the present each man has one to take in the entire vast field of human effort, since the best of us can speak only of the little that happens within the scope of personal observation. In this respect, too, life resembles a battle. Who knows less of a "foughten field" than the individual combatant, seeing only the smoke and hearing only the noise in his immediate vicinity? His story of the conflict is and encourage the true. small a part. All this holds good with regard field of music is not too large, or the movements peculiarities of the "new criticism."

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longer sway conclusions? On the present occasion we make no pretence of surveying musical mankind "from China to Peru." Enough if we glance at the condition of our own country—a small land, geographically, but large enough for the most comprehensive study possible under actual conditions. The year 1894 in England produced no new developments of an epoch-making order; but the fact has not involved disappointment. We move too slowly in this country and, as regards art, are too much lacking in enthusiasm for reasonable expectation of any other result. his own circumscribed duty. It is not for any is true that on the surface of musical society, or, rather, in the high-pressure regions where men must talk, write, and dispute because that much is expected of them, matters have been lively enough. Musical critics have girded at each other as though to show the public that no fear need be entertained of the union which would make them strong to repress the false Nor have their a mere record of personal experiences—a small polemics, we regret to add, been free from an item in the mass which goes as a contribution unworthy personal element—from imputation to general history. The reflection should teach of disgraceful motives and hardly disguised us to be humble, or, at any rate, to found our evidence of rancour, in excuse of which zeal pride, if we must have it, upon the common for art cannot be pleaded. This is nothing achievement, wherein, as individuals, we bear so new. There never was a time, perhaps, when critics did not sneer at each other or bandy to the field of musical activity, in which the hard words, seeing that the atmosphere of music writer and the readers of these words take is one in which quarrels propagate readily, interest—in which, certainly as to some, preseeing also that journalism is a notoriously sumably as to all, a portion of their activities jealous profession. It seems, nevertheless, find scope for exercise. It may be said by that the voice of discord has become intensified people who speak before they think, that the of late, and the fact may be due to certain within it too complicated, for personal survey it be understood that we do not indiscrimiand recognition. Some of us, no doubt, do nately censure and repel the new criticism. see farther and more intelligently than others, It has a ludicrous side which sometimes but the man must have miraculous eyes who, provokes a laugh, and laughter is precious in a while doing that which lies ready to his own strenuous and serious age. But, just because

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hope.

In another respect the past year has shown the continued action of forces singularly doubtful in point of worth. As in the apostolic days, some men contend for Paul and some for Apollos; but we must make all men alike before we can hope to banish preferences, especially in connection with an art which appeals so strongly to personal feeling. Nor, for that matter, is it What desirable that preferences should cease. might with advantage pass away is the disposition to belittle another man's hero, not merely because we consider him inferior to thinks him superior. A striking illustration appears in the singular animosity with which, by some people, Mendelssohn is regarded. Although admirers of that master, we do not expect every one to see him in the same light. That would be absurd. There is room for various musical gifts and each may legitimately find partisans, but there is no room for fanatics who go about to demolish all idols save their own. There is consolation, no doubt, in the futility of their efforts. The anti-Mendelssohn crusade, if productive of any results at all, has tended rather to confirm that master in public affection. Natural resentment in view of attacks upon one who, when all is said against him, remains a refined and graceful musician whose works have been, and are, a source of delight to millions-that natural feeling, we say, has so worked in Mendelssohn's favour that now the great mass of the publicthe arbiters of fame for the time being-are more firmly attached to him than ever. Would it not be better to cultivate catholicity rather than partisanship? We may not esteem all composers alike, but we may recognise the measure of good which is in each, and at the same time remember that it belongs to no man to regulate the taste of his neighbour.

Coming out of the contentious region into the realm of quiet and steady work, we find that native composers, if they have done nothing to astonish us during the past year, continue to justify public confidence. The great and commanding genius for whom we are all longing—he, the heaven-sent one, whose light shall shine from this northern island to the opposite end of the earth-of him it may still be asked, Where is the promise of his advent? But, failing that brilliant apparition, we are doing pretty well. Our composers cannot be charged with setting before them-selves low ideals. They aim high—an indis-

and they show an equally needful measure of perseverance. This, we know, is not enough. But we may go farther, and, looking at such works as Dr. Parry's "King Saul" and Mr. Hamish MacCunn's "Jeanie Deans," say that, in actual achievement, the year just ended was not barren of reason for some degree of comfortable There is no need to make complacency. comparisons between our own country and others, or it would appear that, at a time when the few remaining great lights are going below the horizon and there are no kindling flames above the eastern hills, we stand, to say the least, as well off as our neighbours. Surely we feel, in the domain of creative art, the stimulating influence of energy and hope. The native composer is up and doing, and no longer apologetic. His imagination is not deadened by despair of encouragement and appreciation. He knows that the great public will, to the best of the light that is in them, give him an our own, but also because the other man intelligent and, certainly, a just hearing, and that any work he may produce will stand or fall upon its merits. To put it shortly and, at the same time, to speak generally, the British composer has now the "fair field and no favour" which, in every department of energy, stands for the British idea of rectitude. may be said-it is said-that the product of all this energy and all these favouring conditions does not amount to much. That is, to some extent, a matter of opinion and we will not now discuss the proposition, preferring rather to rest upon our faith that so great an awakening of the British musician as is now obvious to all portends the coming of a noble era in our national art. There was a stirring in the valley of dry bones before the breath of life passed over it and men long dead arose.

Hopeful, further-nay, a development to be prized rather as the substance of things hoped for-is the progress made by orchestral organisations and orchestral music during the period of time just closed. Though few of us may, in our haste, pause to measure its significance, we are now witnessing the greatest forward movement that history records of any British art. It is greatest not merely in extent, but in assured promise of priceless results. Once induce the average amateur to hear orchestral music with intelligence and love, and a revolution, as to value incalculable, is effected. That happy achievement cannot be far off, though there is, of course, much to do, and though, for a long time, the general public will be more alive to sensuous effects of sound than to the play of feeling and idea. But, difficulties notwithstanding, no one can watch the progress made all over the country without recognising a great, steady, and well directed advance to the goal which is the desired of every musical enthusiast. The reader shakes his head, perhaps, and is prepared, like Sancho Panza, to retort with a proverb concerning eyes that see, pensable preliminary to making a lofty mark, not the things which are, but the things wished

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The question now arises whether we can find equal satisfaction in the state of music among the masses. From some points of view that is most surely possible. If there be a period in our national history when music was more esteemed and more generally cultivated than now by the bulk of the population, we should like to know the date. It is said that in the "spacious days" of Elizabeth, every gentleman could take his part in a madrigal, but the cultured class is not now in question; we are referring to the multitude, who, in the sixteenth century, were not considered. The multitude of our own day have come into a glorious possession, and await a yet more glorious reversion. It is to them that the wise observer gives the greatest measure of his regard, marking the signs of improving taste, the evidence of growing skill, the lengthening roll of choral societies, the increase of classes for study. We do not under-rate the importance of what is done in the high places of musical society, we cannot over-rate the importance of what is done lower down, for there, with all its vast possibilities and its stupendous strength, as yet so pathetic in its want of exercise, lies the nation. To the musical welfare of the many all can contribute in some measure, and, in connection with this fact, we desire to quote a brilliant passage from an address delivered in Birmingham eighteen years ago

by John Morley:—
"We cannot, like Beethoven or Handel, lift the soul by the magic of divine melody into the seventh heaven of ineffable vision and hope incommensurable; we cannot, like Newton, weigh the far-off stars in a balance, and measure the heavings of the eternal flood; we cannot, like Voltaire, scorch up what is cruel and false by a word as a flame, nor, like Milton or Burke, awaken men's hearts with the note of an organ-trumpet; we cannot, like the great saints of the churches and the great sages of the schools, add to those acquisitions of spiritual beauty and intellectual mystery which have, one by one and little by little, raised man from being no higher than the brute to be only a little lower than the angels. But what we can do-the humblest in this great hall-is, by diligently using our own minds and diligently seeking to extend our own opportunities to others, to help to swell that common tide on the force and the set of whose currents depends the prosperous voyaging of humanity. When our names are blotted out and our place knows us no more, the energy of each social service

Of course, every anticipation of events to endeavour; it makes the morning bright as we come involves the prophetic character of him awake to its welcome, and the evening like a soft garment as it wraps us about."

Now adieu, Old Year:

When Finis comes, the book we close, And, somewhat sadly, Fancy goes, With backward step from stage to stage of that accomplished pilgrimage . . The thorn lies thicker than the rose!

There is so much that no one knows—
So much unreached that none suppose;
What flaws! what faults! on every page,
When Finis comes.

With retrospect must ever mingle sorrow for the unachieved and the misspent; but the immediate past, with all its shortcomings, casts upon the near future the light of hope. We do not know what the year just entered upon may have in store, but, as by a natural law, the impetus gathered during that gone by will carry our English music nearer to its destined goal. Let us do nothing to hinder it. That is the moral of the season for every one of us. It is not a question whether this or that critic goes to the left when he should turn to the right, or whether or no he spells art with a capital A; it is not a question whether this or that composer rises or falls in the market. Such petty matters tend to obscure the great issue, and to divert us from the main duty of urging large and liberal views, of pointing out the "good in everything" and opening the eyes of our neighbour to its beauty, of teaching that the whole world is full of music—as indeed it iswith the hearing whereof comes great reward. Let us think more of the art and less of its accessories; more of the goal and less of contending that there is but one road to itour own. Every man amongst us has much to learn in this respect, and would master the lesson if he rightly comprehended the height and depth of the theme. "Out-topping knowledge," says Matthew Arnold of Skakespeare:

> For the loftiest hill For the loftiest hill
> That to the stars uncrowns his majesty,
> Planting his stedfast footsteps in the sea,
> Making the Heaven of Heavens his dwelling-place,
> Spares but the cloudy border of his base
> To the foil'd searching of mortality.

The heaven-lit summit of the hill of Music may be inaccessible to us, but we may attain "the cloudy border of his base" by mutual help, and the recognition of a common aim.

JOSEPH BENNETT.

FROM MY STUDY.

PIETRO NARDINI, whose portrait is before the reader's eye, belonged to that brilliant band of Italian violinists which flourished in the eighteenth century. Biographers are not of one mind as to the place of his birth. Accordwill remain, like the unending stream of one of ing to Gerber, Choron, and others, he was a nature's forces. The thought that this is so native of Leghorn; but Gervasoni, who is said may well lighten the poor perplexities of our to have made enquiries on the spot, declares daily life . . . it lifts us from our feet as on that the honour of being his natal place wings, opening a larger meaning to our private appertains to the Tuscan village of Fibiana. toil and a higher purpose to our public Nardini was born in 1722, and, while still a

very young child, became a resident in Leghorn, whither his parents removed. The change had important results, since it placed the boy in a position to include an inborn taste for violinist and director of the music at the Court music. Like so many of his eminent musical of the Duke of Tuscany. In that position he countrymen, he took naturally to the violin, remained some years, and died in Florence, making such progress that it was thought May 7, 1793, at the age of seventy-one. Nearly prudent to place him under the famous master, Tartini, then established at Padua. Young Nardini passed several years with the composer of the "Devil's Trill," but beyond this little is known of his early history. That he

old Italian home, and to his venerated master. who was at that time near the end of an illustrious career. In 1770 Nardini became solo

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result followed. At that time, and for long after, the princes of Germany delighted in Italian music and its professors, to the almost complete exclusion, and the entire discontent, of their own countrymen. Hence, when remained fifteen years, then going back to his a violin." Fétis bears the same evidence:

satisfied his teacher may be assumed from the a passage worth extracting: "Ce violon est fact that on returning to Leghorn at the age of une voix ou en a une. Il a touché les fibres twenty-four he promptly came to the front as de mon oreille qui n'avaient jamais frémi. a solo violinist and composer. A very common | Avec quelle ténuité Nardini divise l'air! avec quelle adresse il exprime le son de toutes les cordes de son instrument! avec quel art, en un mot, il travaille et épure le son!" Rangoni, a contemporary and fellow citizen of Nardini, wrote in 1790 to this effect: Nardini came under the notice of the Duke of "Nardini especially shone in the performance Wurtemberg, that august Serenity offered him of Adagios, and on hearing him without seeing an engagement on terms so advantageous that the performer, the magic of his bow was such the artist could not refuse. At Stuttgart he that it sounded rather like a human voice than

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the human voice, and in Adagios his touching remainder of his life. Corelli died in Rome, expression was admired by all." Leopold Mozart said of Nardini: "The beauty, purity, and equality of his tone, and the tastefulness of near that of Raphael, records his artistic and

tears into the eyes of stony-hearted courtiers -nay, his own tears run down on his From the foregoing testimony it seems clear what manner of artist Nardini

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> The compositions of this master include six concertos and as many sonatas, solos, trios, quartets, and duets. Of these Herr Paul David writes: "Vivacity, grace, a sweet sentimentality, are the main characteristics of his style, which is altogether more modern in form and feeling than Tartini's. His Allegros are often largely developed, and already display the full Sonata form, while his slow movements are not unlike Viotti's. If, nevertheless, the greater part of his works appears to us oldfashioned and antiquated compared with those of Tartini, the reason is that he has neither the depth of feeling, the grand pathos, nor the concentrated energy of his great master." Nardini's works are rarely heard in England, which country, by the way, he does not appear to have visited. Only two have a place in the catalogue of the Popular Concerts-the Sonata in D, played once, over twenty years ago, and a Larghetto in the same key, played twice.

> The famous violinist and composer, Arcangelo Corelli, to whom attention is next invited, was born at Fusignano, in the territory of Bologna, in 1653. According to Italian biographers, he was taught counterpoint by Simonelli, of the Papal Chapel, and the violin by Bassani, of Bologna. He is said, but apparently on no authority of weight, to have made an early appearance in Paris, where he excited the jealousy of Lulli and had to depart in

1700, when appeared the celebrated and undying gusted from public life, and the success there "Sonate à Violino, e Violone, o Cembalo, of Valentini is even said to have hastened his

"This artist did not shine by prodigies of Opera Quinta," dedicated to the Electress of mechanism in the execution of difficulties. Brandenburgh. He was fortunate enough to Inferior in that respect to his predecessor, win the favour of the Mecænas of his day, Locatelli, he had, by way of compensation, an Cardinal Ottoboni, and under the protection of admirably pure tone, remarkably like that of that eminent Prince of the Church he lived the remainder of his life. Corelli died in Rome, January 13, 1713, and lies buried in the Pantheon, where a fitting monument, erected his cantabile playing, cannot be surpassed, but personal worth. Geminiani, who was one he does not execute great difficulties." This is of his pupils, put on record many details of Schubart's evidence: "His playing brings the master's later years, and from him we



consequence. There is more reason to believe derive our knowledge of the visit to Naples that he actually visited Germany and was which caused the Roman artist so much attached to the Court of the Duke of Bavaria, humiliation. Corelli and his companions were about 1680. But he did not long remain expatriated. His good genius led him to Rome, where he speedily attracted attention as the visitors knew by heart. Other rebuffs of a a composer by issuing (1683) his first set of more personal nature had such an effect that, Sonatas. There, also, he became principal first violin at the opera. Corelli continued to augment the fame accruing to him through much to heart. When a hautboy player was his works, the highest point being reached in much applauded in Rome, Corelli retired dis-

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than ence: sensitive nature. "In regard to the peculiar merits of Corelli's productions," says a biographer, "it may be briefly said that his solos, as a classical book for forming the hand of a young practitioner on the violin, have ever been regarded as truly valuable by the most eminent masters of that instrument. . . . Tartini formed all his scholars on those solos, and Giardini observed that, of any two pupils of equal age and ability, if the one were to begin his studies by Corelli, and the other by Geminiani, or any other eminent master whatever, he was certain that the first would become the best performer.

I have found considerable interest in looking through the programmes of some Quartet Concerts given in what may almost be styled the olden time. These sheets were purchased at the sale of the late Mr. Dando's library, and refer to the performances of chamber music which for a number of years were given under his direction. The general remark suggested by them is one I have made on various occasions—namely, that London amateurs, before the days of John Ella and Arthur Chappell, were not without opportunities of hearing the finest compositions played by the best available artists. How many those opportunities were it would surprise not

a few to learn.

The first Concert of the long series under consideration took place in Hanover Square Rooms on February 16, 1837—nearly fifty-eight years ago. Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas formed the string quartet; the other artists being Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Howell, Madame Caradori Allan, and Sir George Smart. The programme, though longer than those in vogue at the present time, was of much the same character. It opened with a String Quartet by Weiss, and closed the first part with the E flat major (Op. 74) of Beethoven. In the second part were Mozart's G minor Quartet, a Sonata for violoncello and double bass by Corelli, and Mendelssohn's Quartet (Op. 13) ("Ist es wahr?"), the last-named being then heard for the first time in this country. The performance began at 8.30 p.m., and single tickets were priced at seven shillings. Two other Concerts were given in the course of this trial season. At the first (March 9) Beethoven's posthumous Quartet in C sharp minor was introduced as a stranger to the English public an act betokening robust faith and involving The executants were the four artists named above. A Quintet by Onslow was also given; Madame Dulcken was the by Miss Masson. At the second Concert, "M. pianist, Mrs. Alfred Shaw the vocalist, and Benedict" accompanied the vocal music, and the accompanist, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Henry Bishop. At the final Concert (March 30), the again had a conspicuous place, being represame performers appeared, save that Cipriani sented by his Quintet in E minor. Where is Potter took the place of Madame Dulcken, and that composer now? In 1839, a favourite; Mrs. Shaw gave way to Madame Caradori. On in 1894, forgotten! The vocalists this year

end. All this was in keeping with an extremely this occasion Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E Corelli's highest claim to major, for organ, was played by Mr. Potter, remembrance and honour comes through his Mr. Howell taking the pedal part on the double bass. Makeshifts of this, or any other, kind are necessarily inartistic; but the method adopted was, at any rate, nearer the truth than a derangement for pianoforte alone. Spohr's Quartet in C major was a "first time in England" on this occasion, and it is worthy of note that Madame Caradori sang Schubert's "Gretchen am Spinnrade." At a supplementary Concert on April 13, for Mr. Blagrove's benefit, Beethoven's last Quartet (F major, Op. 134) was first heard by an English audience. Moscheles took the pianoforte, Mrs. Bishop and Miss Birch being the vocalists. A curious example of programme music was presented on one of these occasions. Onslow had met with an accident while shooting, and the work referred to (Quintet in C minor) represented his sufferings and recovery, the first two movements depicting pain, fever, and delirium; the third, convalescence; the fourth, cure. The success of the trial season was so great that Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas returned thanks and promised con-

In January, 1838, the two Banisters, Dando, and W. Blagrove started a fourth series of Chamber Concerts at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate. This enterprise must therefore have begun in 1835, and, as it now seems, in a place where its continuance was very unlikely. But the conditions of life in the City were very different then, and Concerts, as will quickly appear, flourished there. These performances went on concurrently with those in Hanover Square, the West End season beginning only a little later. In the opening programme I find Quartets by Haydn and Ries, a double Quartet by Spohr, and Beethoven's Pianoforte Trio in D. Mr. W. Sterndale Bennett was the pianist, and one of his songs, "The Zephyr," had a place in the evening's selection. The programme of the fourth Concert contains a curious "note": "Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas regret that they are deprived of the services of M. Heinemeyer this evening. In his passage from Hamburgh he was detained at sea five days, which has so affected his embouchere that, at present, he is unable to perform." Poor Mr. Heinemeyer! it is not difficult to guess the nature of the distress which had so untoward a result. The season of 1839 began with the first performance in England of Mendelssohn's String Quartet in E flat, the programme including, also, Beethoven's Quintet in C and Schubert's "Ave Maria," sung Mr. Schultz was the solo pianist. Onslow

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included Miss Dolby, Miss Fanny Wyndham, and no less a person than Mr. Balfe, who, at the fourth Concert, sang Weber's "Natur und Liebe" and an air from Spohr's "Jessonda." On the same occasion a new Quartet by Fesca was heard for the first time in public. I. L. Hatton accompanied the songs, but later, at the London Tavern, that versatile musician appeared as vocalist and solo pianist; singing "Largo al factotum" and playing the pianoforte in Hummel's Quintet.

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The opening Concert of 1840 brought Hummel's Septet, with Messrs. Card (flute), G. Cooke (oboe), H. Jarrett (horn), Mrs. Anderson (pianoforte), and Lindley (violoncello). Adding Dando and Howell, we get a superb cast of parts, not easily matched even now. Madame Stockhausen, mother of the baritone who was with us some years ago, appeared as vocalist. At the third Concert, Corelli's Trio for two violoncellos and double bass was played by Lindley, Lucas, and Howell, while at the fourth, Miss Susan Hobbs, "from the Bath Subscription Concerts," made her début in London. The services of Mr. J. Bennett were also engaged, it would seem for the first time. A Pianoforte Trio in C minor, by Woelfl, formed part of the selection. Note that, at this time, the season had expanded to six Concerts. At the fifth there was a first performance in England of Beethoven's E flat Quartet (Op. 127), while the programme of the sixth included Sterndale Bennett's Pianoforte Trio, composed expressly for the occasion, and Mendelssohn's Ottet. Bennett, as may be supposed, took the pianoforte part of his own work. A song from "The Regicide," an opera by Lucas, words by Thomas Oliphant, figured at this Concert; Madame Stockhausen singing:

O whither shall I fly? Will no kind hand In pity lead me from this scene of woe? Shall treason stalk triumphant through the land, And royal blood all unavenged flow?

Passing to the year 1841, I find a list of the performers engaged. Here it is: Mesdames Caradori Allan, Anderson, Woodyatt, Rainforth, Dolby; Messrs. Lindley, Potter, Sterndale Bennett, Benedict, Howell, John Parry, Alfred Novello, H. Bishop, and Hobbs. The pro-grammes of the season, like those already noticed, contain names of composers who have fallen out of favour. Who now cares for Reber and his Pianoforte Trio in E flat, or Romberg and his Quartet in C, or Burgmüller, or Mayseder (as a writer of quartets), or Fesca? At the third Concert Mendelssohn's "new Trio" in D minor had its first performance on English ground, the executants being Madame Dulcken, Blagrove, and Lucas, and I note, at the fourth, a Pianoforte Trio in B flat by Cipriani Potter. I note, further, the introduction, by Miss Rainforth, of one of Löwe's Ir may be safely assumed that in every age Ballads, "The Goldsmith's Daughter." That the evolution of music has been attended with

Adelaide Kemble sang Meyerbeer's scena, "Le Poëte Mourant "-

Compagnons dispersés de mon triste voyage, O mes amis, vous qui me fûtes si chers! De mes chants imparfait recueillez l'heritage, Et sauvez de l'oubli quelques-uns de mes vers

Will no one save this scena from oblivion?

It is surely worth the notice of artists. In March, 1842, Mr. Dando announced that he had leased a part of Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate Street, and "carefully, and at great expense, restored to its pristine beauty and elegance that part of it known as the Throne Room, in which, besides other improvements, he has erected a fine organ." From that time onward, over a space of certainly seventeen years, Mr. Dando and his old associates were identified with Crosby Hall. It would take more space than can be spared to go through the remaining programmes as those already noticed have been treated, nor is that course necessary in order to show what good work was done in Richard of Gloucester's throne room. The selections were always of the highest character, and no whit below the standard of those now presented in St. James's Hall. I will, however, run through the pile before me, stopping for a moment at points of particular interest. In May, 1842, Weber's Clarinet Quintet was heard for the first time in this country, the wind instrument player being Mr. Itjen. Other first performances in England were those of Gebel's String Quintet, March, 1843; Spohr's Quartet in B flat, March, 1845; Lachner's Quartet in E flat, February, 1845; Mendelssohn's scena, "Infelice" (vocalist, Miss Messent), March, 1852; Onslow's Pianoforte Trio in G, February, 1856; and Haydn's Quartet in E (No. 8), March, 1867. February, 1845, I find Mr. Hancock playing the double-bass part in an Onslow Quintet "on his newly-invented Basso di Camera," whatever that may have been; and in April, 1843, Mr. Dando presented Haydn's "Seven Last Words" in quartet form, but with the addition of the chorales, which were sung by the Misses Williams, Mr. Carter, and Mr. A. Novello; that being, according to the programme, the first public performance under such conditions.

The last of the programmes before me bring us down very near the time when the Popular Concerts were established, and the present order of things took its rise. In putting the leaflets aside, I do so with respect for the earnest and able musicians—nearly all gone to their rest who prepared the way for chamber music of the best kind in this metropolis and did so much to enlarge the knowledge even of connoisseurs.

MUSICAL MONSTROSITIES.

composer and his works were not made known eccentric manifestations and exploits which, to us yesterday. At the first Concert of 1842, so far from assisting in the development of the refer such a monstrosity as Raimondi's extraordinary triple Oratorio, "Potiphar, Jacob, and ever resting either hand. A bet of £10 was Joseph," each part of which was intended to be performed separately, and then the whole three together. Moritz Hauptmann gives an amusing description of this momentous work, which he not unfairly describes as "an illustration of the absurdities a virtuoso may commit when he can do nothing better." The score was five feet high and five feet broad, and although the composition displayed not a little technical skill, it was a melancholy monument of misplaced ingenuity and perverted talent. The annals of music are studded with similar instances of ineptitude. The commonest form of musical monstrosity, we may observe, is perhaps that which consists in attaining extraordinary proficiency on some perfectly worthless instrument, or something which is not a musical instrument at all. In an unlucky moment a man finds out that he can elicit musical notes from, say, a coffee-pot, a hat-box, or a cricket bat, and he forthwith devotes himself with unremitting assiduity to master the technique of his newly discovered instrument. In some sad cases he resorts to the public exhibition of his talent, and ekes out a precarious livelihood as, say, the champion coffee-pot soloist. Years ago there was one such artist who gave recitals at which he played tunes by rapping with his fist on his chin. We do not purpose to multiply further instances in the past of distorted talent, but to call attention to the latest and most portentous manifestations of musical eccentricity which have appeared in our midst.

We are not aware who was the first man who challenged all-comers to some feat of futile endurance, but we expect that the tendency is in the bond. to be traced back to the very dawn of the world's history. Some primordial ape, gifted with a singularly prehensile tail, may perhaps have shown off his accomplishment by hanging from a bough for so protracted a period as to inspire the jealousy of his fellows. The spirit of competition is as old as the everlasting hills, but in the matter of mere brute endurance it has happily left music alone until late years. But the enormous recent spread of athleticism, and in particular the organisation of longdistance races-walking, running, and cycling -has excited so potent an influence on the civilised world, that musicians were certain to be infected sooner or later by the recordbreaking mania. Early in 1887 an English soldier was reported to have played the pianoforte at Calcutta for twenty-three hours consecutively. We do not know the name of that soldier, and we cannot for the life of us conceive what his commanding officer can have been about. But the fact remains that the recital of his pianofortitude so moved Mr. Napoleon For the professional nurse was charged with

art, have rather tended to retard and discredit to a customer who asked him what he thought To this category, for example, one may of it, he then and there declared his readiness to surpass the military man's efforts without promptly laid against him, but Mr. Bird won it on June 7 and 8, 1887, by playing twenty-five hours with both hands continuously. This, however, by no means satisfied his soaring ambition, and on October 27 and 28 in the same year, he increased his record to thirtysix and a quarter hours, and was presented with a "massive gold watch chain pendant, bearing the inscription to the effect that the gift came from the public of Stockport, recognition of his feat. For seven years Mr. Napoleon Bird was allowed to remain in undisputed possession of the long distance championship of the ivories. But within the last couple of months a determined effort to wrest the supremacy from England was made by a German athlete named Berg, yclept "the iron pianist." The credit of England was at stake, but Mr. Bird was equal to the occasion, and at the end of November he entered once more the pianistic arena. The scene of his pyramidal achievement was the Stockport Armoury, and we are assured by the Manchester Courier that it created interest in musical circles, besides exciting the "close attention of the sporting fraternity." Mr. Bird came, and played, and conquered. For forty consecutive hours the dauntless performer kept up an uninterrupted flow of melody with both hands. Herr Berg's repertory, if we mistake not, only comprised 400 pieces; but Mr. Bird played "over 1,000 selections — overtures, operatic pieces, descriptive works, songs, and dances." Furthermore, everything was played without notes, not a single sheet of music being allowed But Mr. Bird was happily guarded against the depressing influences of monotony by the organisers of the entertainment. There were Concerts every evening "to increase the variety," and, without breaking the continuity of the performance, Mr. Bird acted as accompanist to the singers "right away on being told what the songs were and the keys in which they were to be played." night, as he pathetically put it, "we, or rather they," had a dance from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. His repertory of dance music was by no means exhausted by those four hours, but the dancing licence came to an end at that time, and Mr. Bird had to continue his task without the accompaniment of "twinkling feet." Still he was never alone. He had two doctors, who exchanged duty whilst he played, and he had a professional nurse "who never left me." Well may the poet sing-

O woman, in our hours of ease Uncertain, coy, and hard to please: When pain and anguish wring the brow, A ministering angel thou.

Bird while he was in a barber's shop in the duty of ministering to the wants of Mr. Stockport, in the spring of 1887, that in reply Bird "according to a diet which had been iı

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carefully prescribed," and which included "roast fowl, dry bread, brandy and soda, lemonade and iced water, and, after thirtytwo hours' play, a dozen oysters." He was never hidden from the view of the public, who had thus the extreme felicity of seeing him take his food while he played, and by means of a mirror placed in front of him he was afforded visible proof of the untiring interest and affectionate solicitude of the public. particular he tells of one party of ladies whom he saw "sitting there for seven hours at least." After this, who shall dare to say la donna è mobile?

If only he had been allowed to have turned a hand over and stretched his fingers now and then, Mr. Bird believes that he could have gone on for sixty hours. But with a modesty that is beyond all praise he remarks: "I suppose I ought to feel some degree of satisfaction in having beaten all the piano-playing records, so far as I have heard of them." Well, if Mr. Bird doesn't feel satisfaction, who, we should like to know, is likely to, outside the "sporting fraternity" and the musical circles of Stockport? For, at any rate, he is not to be ranked among those celebrities who meet with no recognition on their native heaths. At the close of the exhibition he made a speech to an enthusiastic audience, and was escorted by "cheering thousands" to his home. When the inevitable interviewer called next day, he found Mr. Bird "wrapped up in flannels down to the wrists," but otherwise perfectly well, and prepared to fulfil a professional engagement the same evening.

The foregoing account, let us assure our readers, is no effort of imagination. It is faithfully reproduced from the interview with Mr. Bird which appears in the Manchester Courier for November 30. The champion then stated that he had no desire to break his own record for another month at least, and for this we may be thankful. But in view of the present attitude of a very large section of the public, it is to be feared that this is very far from being the last of those exhibitions in which a noble and beautiful art is degraded into the occasion for the display of utterly futile endurance. We have devoted what some of our readers may consider a wholly unnecessary amount of space to the chronicling of this preposterous feat simply in order to emphasize its absurdity. A story is told of the present Czar's great grandfather and namesake which is not without its bearing on the Stockport incident. When the thaw had set in, the Czar once saw from the windows of his palace a peasant crossing the Neva by leaping from block to block of ice. Sending out an officer to learn the cause of this rash proceeding, he was informed that the peasant had done it to win a wager of twentyfive roubles. Whereon the Czar ordered the peasant to receive twenty-five strokes of the

stamp would commit any atrocity for money. There are moments when one regrets that absolute monarchs do not exist in this country.

A SHORT GLOSSARY OF MUSICAL TERMS (UP TO DATE).

BY A DISCONTENTED MUSICIAN.

Music.-A succession of more or less discordant sounds; the more discordant the sound, the better the music. Music is divided into two sorts. interpreted by the human voice it is called Vocal (though this is often a misnomer); when played by one or more instruments it is sometimes instrumental-in driving people into the farthest corner of the room or Hall, or out of it altogether. Vocal music is so far preferable to instrumental, in that the former (except, perhaps, in Opera) takes considerably less time to get through than the latter. These two sorts of music are again divided into abstract music, which is not intended to convey any meaning (and usually doesn't), and programme music, which insists on your taking it for what it is supposed to represent, whether you think it does or not.

People are affected differently by music, according to their various temperaments. In some it causes intense emotion and excitement, a difficulty in sitting still in one place or keeping the head, hands, or feet quiet, even to the extent of a constant desire to be throwing something-a bouquet or some other objectionable thing-at the artist of the moment; in other people it induces somnolence; in others, again, utter forgetfulness-of the time a Concert commences, and indifference-as to its conclusion, &c., &c. Composers are seldom affected by music not their

Melody .- An obsolete term.

Harmony.-That sentiment which exists between two prime donne in the same theatre.

Discord .- See Music.

Common Chord .- This chord has obtained the reputation of being so common that composers usually avoid it, except, on rare occasions, to finish a piece or movement with.

Diminished Seventh .- A chord which is used to modulate from one key into any other when no easier

way can be thought of.

Scale.—A youthful progression of notes, the sound of which is but slightly diminished by the interposition of a thin brick wall or partition. A major scale ascends to the octave and down again, triumphantly, as if it were proud of the feat; a minor scale, on the contrary, starts conceitedly, but returns with "its tail between its legs," metaphorically speaking, as if it had made a failure - somewhat after the fashion of an artist whose opinion of himself and that entertained of him by the audience differ. N.B.-Chromatic scales also exist, but they are usually employed only to portray thunderstorms and rough

Consecutive Fifths .- An artifice used by composers to show their indifference to the rules of grammar,

and to annoy critics and Mus. Docs.

Signature.—The number of flats or sharps placed at the beginning of a piece to indicate the only key not used in the piece.

Counterpoint.-Two or more themes forcibly made to go together whether they desire it or not. .Two barrel-organs playing different tunes in the same street are a good example of counterpoint.)

Time.—The division of a piece into bars containing knout, adding sententiously that men of that a more or less equal number of minims, crotchets, or

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quavers, as the case may be. This division is not an arbitrary one. N.B.—Singers and other musicians occasionally take advantage of this fact.

Rhythm.—A number of accents (the stronger the better) placed intentionally on the unaccented parts of the bar, so that no one knows where the bar begins or ends. This can be done in many very ingenious

ways.

Modulation.—The art of beginning a piece in one key, dexterously going through all the keys of the scale, and returning to the key one started in without its being perceived. If a piece remains long enough in any one key for the listener to be able to get firm hold in his mind of this key before it escapes into another, the modulation is not a good one.

Tremolo.—An orchestral device used mostly as an accompaniment when no other resource is conveniently at hand. It is capable of expressing almost all natural or supernatural ideas, such as angels, lovers, villains, &c., according to whether it is played in the high treble, the middle register, or the bass respectively. When used by the human voice it is generally expressive of fear—or of inability to sing

differently.

Instrumentation.—The art of Instrumentation consists in writing as many separate parts for the violins and other stringed instruments in the orchestra as the entrepreneur of the Concert or Opera House will pay for players to play them. Several trombones playing the principal theme ff are an important and necessary adjunct to this, as well as an occasional use of the other wind instruments. The employment of instruments which do not blend well with others, such as the banjo, concertina, &c., is also sometimes very effective.

f or forte.-As loud as possible.

p or piano.—Perhaps not quite so loud as the above. (The difference is perceptible only to well-trained ears).

Crescendo.—Quicker. Diminuendo.—Slower.

Allegro.—In Italian, as fast as possible; in German, moderately; in English, without any hurry.

Andante.—In Italian, slightly slower than Allegro; in German, quietly and tenderly; in English, very

slowly and gravely, dragging the time.

Da capo.—These words are put at the end of a piece to signify "over again, from the beginning." They have now become almost unnecessary, the artist deciding for himself (usually in the affirmative) whether the piece shall be repeated or not.

Composition.—The art of absorbing the musical ideas of others and reproducing them in such a way that they shall be sufficiently unrecognisable to one's

self and scarcely less so to the listener.

Composer.—Any one of any nationality (except British) who composes.

Pianist.—Anyone who plays the pianoforte and comes to England from a foreign country.

Violinist.—Do., do., who plays the violin, and do., do., do.

Artist.—Do., do., who does any of the above three things, and do., do., do.

Singer.—A person who possesses a more or less agreeable voice, and has a répertoire of at least three ballads, which he can sing to his own satisfaction.

Conductor.—A figure, with a short stick in its right hand, which is placed in the centre of an orchestra, with its back to the audience, and facing a desk on which rests the music of the piece to be performed. By a mechanical contrivance contained in the body, the figure, as soon as the orchestra begins to play, raises both arms, and waves them about periodically,

continuing this action until the orchestra ceases, when, or soon after, it lowers its arms, and stops. By means of a further mechanism it can be made to spread out the fingers of the left hand, turn over the pages in front of it at intervals, keep time with its head to the music being played, and, at the conclusion, to revolve on one foot, bend the upper part of the body twice, and quickly reassume its original quiescent position.

Opera.—A highly sensational, immoral play, set to

quite unnecessary music.

Symphony.—An orchestral work in as many movements as possible, displaying plenty of learning and more dulness. (N.B.—Symphonies are seldom published.)

Concerto.—An orchestral work with an accompaniment for the pianoforte, which instrument endeavours at various times to make itself heard above the orchestra, but, failing in these attempts, gives up,

and leaves the latter to play by itself.

Chamber Music.—Three or more stringed or wind instruments (or both) played simultaneously by the same number of performers, who are not permitted to leave their seats for at least three-quarters of an hour. Occasional breathing time is allowed to these performers, who, however, must not take it all at the same time.

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Song.—A short, mediocre poem, divided into two or three verses, having, usually, as its theme the reminiscences of an elderly relative or the premature decease of a youthful one, and set to more or less inappropriate music for a single voice, with an accompaniment for the pianoforte, consisting of chords for the first one or two verses, and triplets for the last. It should not be written in any key with more than three sharps or flats.

Part-Song.—A short piece of vocal music in several parts (usually without accompaniment), which begins in one key and ends half-a-tone or more lower.

Glee.—When the words of a poem consist of very few lines, not sufficient for an ordinary Part-Song, these are repeated many times over in the musical setting, in order to make the Piece of the necessary length. This constitutes the difference between a glee and a part-song.

Interval.-The most enjoyable part of any musical

entertainment.

EARLY in the New Year Messrs. Novello and Co. will publish an Album of Songs, by Dr. Hubert Parry. They constitute the third set of "English Lyrics" produced by their eminent composer, and comprise settings of six poems—"To Lucasta, on going to the wars," by Lovelace; "If thou wouldst ease thine heart," by Beddoes; Lovelace's "To Althea, from prison"; Suckling's "Why so pale and wan"? "Through the ivory gate," by Julian Sturgis; and "Of all the torments," by William Walsh. Three of the songs were sung by Mr. Plunket Greene, at St. James's Hall, on the 14th ult., and their merits speedily recognised. The set will be warmly welcomed wherever evasion of the commonplace is regarded as a merit.

LAST month we took occasion, in recording the resignation of Sir George Grove, to recall to our readers the signal services, extending over some forty years, which the outgoing Director has rendered to the art he has loved and loves so well. As briefly recorded in our last issue, Dr. Hubert Parry has been appointed as his successor, and it is not too much to say that the choice has conferred fresh distinction

on the Royal College, at the same time that it has set the seal of official recognition on a career of remarkable brilliancy and achievement. There is, so far as we can see, only one serious drawback to the appointment, in that the duties and engagements which it entails may interfere with the creative activity of a composer whose age and whose genius entitle us to expect many another noble addition to the long list of delightful works with which he has already enriched the repertory of English music. The cares of office and of organisation are difficult to reconcile with that atmosphere of aloofness and detachment in which the promptings of inspiration are most likely to find unimpeded utterance. The the past certainly affords little justification for entertaining them. Dr. Parry has always been an insatiable worker—a man of multifarious engagements, who has found time concurrently with the labours of composition to lecture, and write books, and to shirk no drudgery in the conscientious desire to do his duty by his pupils. From a good deal of this drudgery he will now be released; and if he can only be persuaded to cultivate the virtue of timely inaccessibility, and refuse to victimise himself in the interests of bores and drones, it may be that he will have more leisure as a Director than he had as a Professor.

THE amount of work that Dr. Parry has managed to crowd into the last twenty years of his life affords conclusive proof of his energy and versatility, especially when it is borne in mind that he was not destined for the calling which he now adorns, and did not embrace it until he was nearly five-andtwenty. His father, Mr. T. Gambier Parry, who united rare accomplishments as an amateur artist, architect, and designer, with a singular charm of personality, sent him to Eton, where he was not only the best football player of his day, but took his Mus. Bac. degree at the age of seventeen. At Eton, we may observe, he was a contemporary of Lord Rosebery, Lord Randolph Churchill, Canon Scott Holland, and Mr. Arthur Balfour, who has "all along"—as he once told the present writer—"been a firm believer in Hubert Parry." From Eton he went to Exeter College, Oxford, where he graduated in honours in Law and Modern History in 1870, and, for a short time, had a desk at Lloyd's. But from the first his heart had been set on music, and his leisure had been devoted to study—with Sir George Elvey, Sir George Macfarren, H. H. Pierson (of Stuttgart), and, finally, Mr. Dannreuther—and composition. The final choice of a calling was made about the year 1872, and, having once put his hand to the plough, never for a moment has he turned back, or faltered in his devotion to the art of which he is now one of the most conspicuous ornaments. It is impossible within the limits of the space at our disposal to do more than single out the most notable of the products of his pen. His first efforts were chiefly in the domain of instrumental or chamber music, and it was not until 1880 that he gave to the world in "Prometheus Unbound" the first of those choral works in which he has achieved such notable distinction. To 1883 belong the "English" Symphony and the delightful incidental music to

"L'Allegro ed il Pensieroso," at Norwich, in 1890; the "De Profundis," at Hereford, in 1891; "Job," at Gloucester, in 1892; and "King Saul," at Birmingham, in 1894. To these must be added his exhilarating incidental music to the "Frogs" of Aristophanes, his "Eton," his "Lotos Eaters," his "Hypatia" music, and his fine "Tragic" Overture.

THE foregoing list, which makes no pretence to completeness, is very far from exhausting the record of Dr. Parry's indefatigable activity. Since the foundation of the Royal College, as Professor of Composition and Musical History at that Institution, he has exercised an influence which it would be difficult to over estimate. As a lecturer, he has constantly been in evidence at the Royal Institution and at Oxford, where he holds the office of Choragus to the University; and he has found time not only to contribute some of the most valuable articles to Grove's Dictionary, but to write two books—his suggestive "Studies of Great Composers" and his masterly "Art of Music," the best treatise on the evolution of music in the English language, which extorted the astonishing tribute from Mr. Bernard Shaw that he had actually learnt something from it. Of even greater importance in his new post, however, than his great achievements and distinctions, do we reckon Dr. Parry's vigorous and inspiring personality. For not only is he the soul of good humour and kindliness, radiating sunshine wherever he goes, but he is a living proof of the valuable fact that a musician is all the better for being a good "all-round man." His manliness and his wide range of interests -athletic, social, and literary-lend a peculiar charm to the personality of the new Director and render him, perhaps, the least "shoppy" member of his profession. It is no small satisfaction to those who honour music to think that Dr. Parry should have been chosen to occupy a post in which his wholesome and stimulating influence is likely to be exerted even more energetically and fruitfully than at any previous stage of his career.

THE attention of all pianists will, doubtless, be drawn to the remarkable paper on keyboard technique read by Mr. Macdonald Smith before the Musical Association, a report of which appears in another column. This age has been marked by innumerable discoveries and theories, some of which have been of so startling a nature that the wildest announcement would receive careful examination and a certain amount of credence. Mr. Smith's system is, however, based upon accepted physiological facts, and it promises such a diminution of wearisome work that a certain fascination is imparted to the scheme. There can be little doubt but that virtuosi are naturally endowed with exceptional muscular development of a kind peculiarly favourable to digital celerity and precision; and any system, therefore, which tends to overcome the muscular weaknesses common to most people is undoubtedly of great value. Mr. Smith's method has also otherwise much to recommend it. There is no risk of overstraining the muscles; the exercises require no apparatus; they can be gone through in a few minutes, and Aristophanes' "Birds"; in 1887 his noble ode, "Blest whenever opportunity offers; and, if totally futile for Pair of Sirens," was heard at a Bach Choir Concert; and in 1888 "Judith" was produced at the Birmingham Festival. Since then hardly a year has passed the method promises to do away with a vast amount in which he has not been represented at one or other of the leading festivals by a work of first-rate worthy of attention and fair trial; for probably in no importance—"St. Cecilia's Day," at Leeds, in 1889; art is more time fruitlessly spent than in music, and

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certainly in none is more aggravation given to the long-suffering next-door neighbour. The progress and accomplishments of Mr. Smith's pupils will as having undergone an arduous training, while the therefore be watched with considerable interest; and should the results establish the truth of the theory, and prove that the actions really develop executive ability more quickly than the hitherto employed keyboard exercises, pianoforte training will undoubtedly enter upon a new era.

A HITHERTO unknown Symphony in three movements, and in the key of C major, by Johann Michael Haydn, a younger brother of Joseph Haydn, was recently played at the Leipzig Conservatoire and exceedingly well received by critics and audience alike. According to the *Leipziger Tageblatt* the two quick movements are remarkable for freshness and The Finale-Vivace assai, Fugato-was vivacity. considered especially effective, recalling Mozart both in the strength of its themes and the beautifully finished workmanship. The slow movement—Rondo, un poco adagio—is of a very pleasing character, and not unlike some of the slow movements of Joseph Herr Otto Schmid, who discovered the Symphony and lent the score and parts to the Conservatoire, has made the life and works of Michael He informs us that Haydn his special study. according to authentic chronological and thematic indexes in his possession this particular work was completed on September 28, 1784. This would seem completed on September 28, 1784. This would seem to prove that, instead of its fugal Finale having been inspired, as some critics thought, by the Fugue in Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, it is not at all unlikely that the latter composer's choice of a fugue-in the same key too!-for the Finale to that masterpiece was suggested to him by the work which has just been resuscitated. For the "Jupiter" was not composed till 1788. We have all read a pretty tale relating how Mozart heard a certain fugue by Clementi praised, and how, not thinking much of the piece himself, he undertook to write a better one on the same subject; whereupon he sat him down and composed the wonderful "Zauberflöte" Overture. Can it be that the matchless "Jupiter" Finale was written in some such spirit of rivalry? It would be a fascinating conjecture.

Nobody who consults the pages of booksellers' catalogues, or the publishers' announcements in the newspapers, can fail to be struck with the number of novels recently published in which music plays a more or less important part. "A Bayreuth Pilgrimage," "A Daughter of Music," "Music hath Charms," "Doreen, a Singer," and "A New Note" (in which the heroine is a pupil of Joachim's) have all appeared in the last few months; while in the last piece produced at the Haymarket the principal female character was a professional singer. Whether all these evidences of literary interest in an art which Mr. Andrew Lang once declared, if a sacrifice was called for, might perish before all the others, are a matter for congratulation or not, is a question which does not admit of an immediate answer. The famous remark of Pericles that women (not New Women) best fulfilled their destiny when they were least talked about, is applicable to other things besides the fair sex. great deal of modern talk about music-especially the talk in novels—is by no means calculated to further the interests of that art. In Mr. du Maurier's "Trilby," for instance, the gratuitous tirade against Wagner is one of the most infelicitous passages in a clever and striking novel. Still, with all its prejudices and limitations, Mr. du Maurier's treatment of the "I'd hang all composers like wretched old Strauss."

regulation heroine, who electrifies her hearers by her "rich" and "glorious" contralto voice, generally dispenses with any instruction whatsoever.

THAT WALTZ.

WE danced. Of sweet maidens, the sweetest, To see her was perfect delight; Her feet were the smallest and fleetest, Her figure so gracefully slight. I thought, as we glided in delicate dance, That nothing was wanting just then to enhance The pleasure of living, thus favoured by chance.

We danced. I was carefully clasping Her waist, of so tiny a girth; Her hand I was tenderly grasping, It seemed heaven here upon earth. The music was that of Apollo's own lyre, Such sweetness, such languishing pathos, such fire! Apparently played by a heavenly choir.

We danced. I was hers, hers for ever! To say I was not would be false. Enraptured, I fancied there never Was music so sweet as a waltz.

As we went round the room, gay with flowers and

And thought, "Grieg is gammon, drat Dvorák, blow Brahms"! I scorned all sonatas, songs, symphonies, psalms,

We danced. She danced simply divinely.
She spoke. What a voice, soft and low! That waltz, as they played it, so finely, Surpassed any music I know. I thought, "All the Wagnerites must be obtuse, Beethoven and Bach deserve only abuse, Poor Chopin and Schubert may go to the deuce."

We danced—till the music was finished; We talked—till the music began. My joy then was somewhat diminished, She danced with a horrible man. A fool, he was very much taller than I; His silky moustache was so black-was it dye? She seemed to admire him, I cannot tell why.

They danced. All the while some poor duffers Strummed, fiddled, with horrible sound. What exquisite torture one suffers When errors in music abound! I thought of that waltz with a D that was big; I felt in a fury, I cared not a fig For any contemptible, capering jig.

They danced. I reflected that dances Should give no sane person delight; fool with a flirt twirls and prances, I hate the ridiculous sight. But, more than the movement, the music is bad. When School Board pianos teach infants, how sad That anyone likes it! Such noise drives me mad.

They danced. I could bear it no longer, That vile, inharmonious din; My hatred of waltzes grew stronger, Another would shortly begin.

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FACTS, RUMOURS, AND REMARKS.

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MR. WHATELY W. INGALL, writing to the Lewisham Gazette, states his desire to see in every town and important village throughout the land—(I.) a Concert hall, (II.) a permanent orchestra of recognised ability, (III.) a really capable conductor, (IV.) fixed weekly Concerts. This savours of the millennium; nevertheless, we all join Mr. Ingall in his aspiration. Wishes are as free as thoughts.

How does Mr. Ingall propose the attainment of such a musically blissful state? He answers: "There is one method which has commended itself to my mind as being feasible-to establish an orchestral rate payable upon the fixed assessment by the entire body of ratepayers." If it be suggested that the rates are already a burden grievous to bear, and that ratepayers are showing an impatience of local taxation which cannot be called ignorant, being founded on accurate knowledge of where the shoe pinches, Mr. Ingall is ready with a reply. Says he: "We pay many rates now which I should personally be glad to see lowered, particularly those applicable to the Union Infirmary and School Board, in regard to which the better-class ratepayers reap absolutely no advantage, and often they operate to their direct detriment." Having lowered these rates—by stinting the comforts of pauper patients and the education of poor children, in which the "better-class ratepayer" does not participate — and having obtained his orchestra rate, concert hall, conductor, and band, Mr. Ingall would give free admission to all ratepayers, "who could be allotted positions in accordance with formed groups of assessments," the result of which, I suppose, would be that the hundred-pounders would sit by themselves in the best places, and so on. It is not absolutely necessary, perhaps, to make any comment upon Mr. Ingall's suggestions as a whole.

On the 13th ult. Miss Margaret Fowles, founder and, for more than twenty years, Conductor of the Ryde Choral Union, presided at a performance of "The Messiah," and then took her leave of the institution she had built up. Ill health, not weariness in well doing, dictated the lady's retirement, and I, for one, join in the hope expressed by the donors of a gold watch, "that it would mark time for many years with the truth their esteemed conductress had always shown."

WITH reference to the event just recorded, an incident took place which does not reflect much credit upon the Bumbledom of Ryde. At a meeting of the Town Council held two days before the Choral Union Concert, a letter was read in which Miss Fowles, after pointing out special circumstances, expressed a hope that the Mayor and Corporation would attend the performance. Other business being taken up, Councillor Blackall asked whether the Mayor would answer the letter. His Worship replied that it was addressed to the Council, not to himself. Councillor Blackall: "Can we speak on it now?" The Mayor: "The letter was acknowledged, but we can't discuss it." Upon this, the Councillor pointed to No. 1 on the agenda: "To consider any letter addressed to the Mayor, the Council," &c., "and to pass such resolutions thereon," &c. The Mayor met this by a Standing Order and ruled that the matter could not be discussed; he was, however, willing to put a resolution that the Alderman and Councillors accompany the Mayor to the Concert.

Mr. Blackall then moved a resolution to the effect stated, dwelling upon the usefulness of the Choral Union and the good work done by Miss Fowles. His speech ended, the Mayor wished to know whether robes were expected to be worn. The Councillor did not care about the robes, but wished the attendance to be an official act. At this juncture up rose Councillor Pollard labouring under a difficulty. "If every place be taken," said, in effect, Councillor Pollard, "where are we to find seats?" The Corporation "gave it up," and, the resolution wanting a seconder, passed to the next business. I wonder when Mr. Ingall will see an orchestra rate made in Ryde?

The good feeling which prevails among the musicians of Gloucestershire has just been manifested anew. At a recent meeting of the Gloucester Festival Committee it was resolved to invite the Bristol Orpheus Society to attend the only secular Concert in the programme, and perform a selection from their repertory. The invitation has been cordially accepted by Mr. Riseley and his capital gleemen. It is understood that the Bristolians will not only give their services, but pay their own expenses. That they will receive an enthusiastic welcome is, of course, assured.

"Wagner Nights" we know, but Birmingham has just had a Wagner Day, the Royal Carl Rosa Company performing "Tannhäuser" in the morning and "Lohengrin" in the evening. This was a very considerable stage achievement.

A RECENT number of the Cornishman contained a sonnet on "Rubenstein," the author of which seems to be labouring under an idea that Anton Rubinstein—who, of course, is meant—was a Pole. He speaks of "Poland's loss" and describes an audience rising "as if Poland's dead was there." This is a strange mistake. Rubinstein, born a Russian, came, on his father's side, of a family of Polish Jews, while his mother was a German Jewess. Out of this mixture it is difficult to evolve a Pole.

I NOTE, in the journal above-named, a contribution from "A Lover of Sweet Sounds" on the subject of a Recital by Slivinski. It contains a description of the pianist, who, I learn, "has not a leonine mane, like his fellow-student, Paderewski, to form a halo of attraction and interest." But, "the man is emotional to his finger-tips, prepared to be lulled into dreamland by some fairyland echoes, or jump with delirious and tingling ecstasy as a tremendous crash of harmony bursts with electric force and the room rings with the resonant music." I had no idea that Slivinski was thus neurotic.

Continuing his description, "A Lover of Sweet Sounds" says: "But this man, Slivinski, gathered together his whole muscular and nerve power, raised his hands to the level of his head, and smote the keyboard with the loosened fury of a catapult; but our feelings rose with the outburst of blended sounds, and the final tierrfic bang in Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' was only a climax of delight." Paul Hentzner, who travelled in this country 300 years ago, said: "The English are fond of loud noises." The intervening centuries have not changed some of us.

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A TRANSPONTINE journal inserted a curious report of the successful Concert lately given by the South London Orchestral Society, under Mr. G. A. Higgs. The orchestra, it was said, "essayed with Mozart's Symphony in E flat." "It was a big task," the writer continues, "but a brilliant performance. For slow and quick movements it was a triumph of musical accomplishments for a local choir." Again, on the subject of Mr. German's Dances in "Henry VIII": "Part 2 opened with three selections by the orchestra, being three sweet old German dances of the time of Henry III." "The choir" did very well with these, in the opinion of the writer.

I have read with much interest the letter from Mr. Frank Kidson which appears in another column, more particularly the part referring to "Gaarge Ridler's Oven." So many years have passed since the tune, as sung by the peasantry of the Vale district, was familiar to me, that I cannot venture to speak with confidence; but the air of the "Waayzailers' Zong," as given by Mr. Kidson, wakens no recollections of "Gaarge" in my mind. "George Ridler" may be so sung by the "hill-men," between whom and the people of the Vale there used to be little in common, save, perhaps, a disposition to fisticuffs. I recognise the "Wassail" tune reprinted from Chappell, but it differs materially from that I used to know. Some twenty years ago I asked a musical friend in Gloucestershire to note it down as sung by a well-known local minstrel. This he did, after the said minstrel had held his mouth "under the good yaale tap" for a considerable period. I have, unfortunately, mislaid the MS., but may state, from personal recollection, that the tune was in 3-4 not C, and that the last two phrases ran thus—



The "Wassail Song" may still be heard at Christmas time, and I will endeavour to have it re-written.

News of the death of Mr. Charles Severn, the once well-known violoncellist and contrabassist, has just reached me. He was in his ninetieth year, and, therefore, with his removal another link connecting our own day and the beginning of the century has parted. Mr. Severn was a Court musician when the Queen ascended the throne, and played at her coronation. The scarlet and gold coat he wore on that occasion is still preserved. He took part, also, in the first performance of "Elijah" at Birmingham. He was a member of the opera orchestra for nearly fifty years, and during forty-six years held the post of organist at Islington Parish Church. Charles Severn was, I believe, a brother of the painter whose name is famous in connection with Keats, and an uncle of Mr. Arthur Severn.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "As a pendant to your anecdote about the co-operation of 'Lohengrin' and 'Carmen,' I may mention that an English lady at Munich was heard to inform her friend that she was going to hear 'Lohengrin' sung by 'Madame Sans Gêne.'"

Joseph Bennett.

SAVOY THEATRE.

The saying about returning to one's first love is exemplified by the present association of Frank Burnand and Arthur Sullivan. Near upon thirty years ago these gentlemen worked together, producing "Cox and Box" and the "Contrabandista," with every prospect of continued success. But soon the musician was attracted by a new charmer; the Gilbert-Sullivan alliance was formed, and a second outlook of continuity opened up. Alas, this is a changeful world! The seeming inseparables parted asunder, and now we have Burnand-Sullivan once more. We also have the "Contrabandista" again—the old "Contrabandista" of St. George's Hall, with an expanded story, much new music, and vastly greater pretensions. Among those who took part in the original production were Miss Arabella Smythe, Miss Lucy Franklein, and Mr. Shaw, and no doubt there are many who remember that admirable comedian's clever delivery of the song "From rock to rock." To a majority, however, of present playgoers, the "Chieftain"—for the work has been re-named—is altogether new. Nearly a generation—twenty-seven years, to be precise—has passed since the "Contrabandista" ran its course on the German Reed stage, and in that time there are many exits from and entrances upon the stage of life. Curiosity, therefore, ministered to the success of the enlarged and amended opera as produced at the Savoy on the 12th ult.

amended opera, as produced at the Savoy, on the 12th ult. Mr. Burnand humorously confesses to having been misled in 1867 as to the adventures of Mr. Grigg among the bandits. When that excellent representative of Twickenham respectability was captured and compelled to become a robber chief and husband of a robber chief's widow, he did not escape, as the librettist first thought, in the train of soldiers who released his fellow-prisoner, Rita. Later information shows that Grigg remained at his double post till ransomed, in the regular manner, by Rita's martial lover and deliverer, Vasquez. During that time, all communication with Mrs. Grigg at Twickenham ceased, whereupon the good lady took ship for Spain in search of the lost one; on arrival, engaging as courier the runaway husband of the chieftainess whom Grigg had been compelled to wed. Here was a fresh development-materials for a "pretty coil." The new part of the story is devoted to telling how all knowledge of Grigg's matrimonial escapade was concealed from his lawful wife, and how the chieftainess contrived to capture her original partner. We need not enter into details, with which, by this time, readers are familiar; but the fun of the libretto, its smart verses and often witty dialogue, call for acknowledgment. The opera, as a stage work, is a capital piece of fooling and keeps the audience in a desirable state of merriment till the curtain falls.

Sir Arthur Sullivan has retained much of the music in the old first act of the "Contrabandista," and that with no greater change than some strengthening of the orchestral part involved. We may regard this as more or less well-known, for, though the first version has not been played of late years, many numbers from it have become public property. Granting all the merits claimed for the music of 1867, we are bound to declare that of 1894 far superior at all points. It belongs to the best work of its kind from the same pen, alike in gracefulness, humour, and exhilaration of spirit. One might imagine the composer as determined to show that the experience of more than a quarter of century could prove of infinite value even in the region of comic opera, where the musician's task is generally supposed to be easy, though, in point of fact, exceedingly difficult. We can hardly select particular numbers for special approval, since all are so good; besides, general praise in the case of a Sullivan opera is at once understood to involve a lot of excellences with which everybody is acquainted. Our readers may safely put their money on the "Chieftain," and be assured that it will purchase an enjoyable evening. The piece is admirably staged, and played in a satisfactory John, Miss Brandram, Miss Perry, Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mr. Scott Fishe, Mr. Temple, and others. Though he should have been at home nursing his sprained ankle, Sir Arthur Sullivan conducted the first performance, and had the pleasure, with Mr. Burnand, of seeing the opera enthusiastically received.

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VERY great regret was naturally felt at the unavoidable VERY great regret was naturally felt at the unavoidable absence, through serious illness, of Sir Joseph Barnby from his accustomed post in the Albert Hall, on the 13th ult., when the performance of Berlioz's "Faust," which is now regarded as an annual event, took place. Mr. Randegger, however, who has many times conducted the French master's work, was happily available, and the orchestra and chous naturally did their best for the sale of their indicates. chorus naturally did their best for the sake of their indisposed chief and for his esteemed locum tenens. The audience was evidently pleased with the rendering of the Hungarian March and the Dance of Sylphs, for both were warmly encored. The veteran artist, Signor Campanini, displayed his pure Italian vocal method in the somewhat ungrateful part of the hero, and it is understood that he will in future part of the lector, and it is understood that he will in former reside principally in this country for the purpose of concert as well as operatic engagements; Miss Ella Russell was praiseworthy as Marguerite, and Mr. Andrew Black was unexceptionable as Mephistopheles. The next performance will be "The Messiah," on the evening of New Year's

LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

HUMPERDINCK'S delightful Prelude to "Hansel und Gretel" was repeated "by desire" at the third Concert, on November 29, and was still more appreciated than on the occasion of its first performance. It opened the programme and was followed by a most artistic rendering, by Miss Agnes Janson, of "La Captive," the beautiful "Reverie" for contralto, with which the genius of Victor Hugo inspired that of Hector Berlioz. Miss Janson was equally successful (in spite of the excessive loudness of the orchestra) in Mr. Henschel's noble ballad "There was an ancient King." The places of honour were given to Schubert's B minor Symphony (which, under Mr. Henschel, is always sure of a sympathetic rendering) and Herr David Popper's Suite for violoncello and orchestra, called "Im Walde." The distinguished violoncellist being his own interpreter, the charm of his playing and of the clever and ingenious pieces themselves combined to produce an effect the extent of which was demonstrated unmistakably by the audience, who insisted successfully on a repetition of one of the numbers. The Suite is full of fancy and is capitally scored. Wagner's "Huldigongs" March, played at a pace which deprived it of all dignity, brought the Concert to a close.

The fourth Concert, which took place on the 13th ult., was chiefly remarkable for a really magnificent performance of Beethoven's C minor Symphony. The band, on this occasion, consisted of the "Scottish Orchestra," and its performance of the familiar work showed of what excellent material it is composed. Every little phrase was played with an intelligent comprehension of its meaning that aroused the attention even of the most blase listener. The first movement was taken rather more slowly than usual, the result being that its ruggedness and almost savage persistence were intensified to a remarkable degree. A more tender and freely phrased reading of the slow movement we have never heard, and a perfectly wonderful pianissimo was secured in the famous passage on a drum "pedal" that ushers in the Finale. Mr. Emanuel Moór played his new Pianoforte Concerto, which, though it contains an abundance of interesting melodic material, made no great impression. The composer seems to have overlooked the necessity, in a work of such dimensions, of a central idea or dominating influence; and a certain The first movement was taken rather more slowly than a central idea or dominating influence; and a certain amount of patchiness and aimlessness made itself felt very strongly in consequence. Dr. Mackenzie's now quite popular "Britannia" Overture, Liszt's beautiful symphonic poem "Les Préludes," and Saint-Saëns's "Danse Macabre" were the remaining orchestral pieces, and "Elizabeth's Greeting" from "Tannhäuser," well sung by Miss Medora Henson, completed the programme. The fifth Concert, on the 17th inst., is to include Mozart's E flat Symphony and Saint-Saëns's Fourth Concerto for pianofurte the sole part of which will be played by M. Diemer.

forte, the solo part of which will be played by M. Diemer.

Wagner's music has now reached the most dangerous epoch of its career. It has become fashionable, and the consequences which generally attend that kind of success are of a nature to cause anxiety among those who love Wagner because they understand him. That which has become strong on ridicule and insult may find it less easy to figure with impunity as a fashionable fad. We have, of course, no desire to identify sincerity with the shilling seats, or its opposite with a sofa stall; but we cannot help feeling that if intelligent musical appreciation were so great among us as an optimistic view of the crowd present on this occasion might suggest, it would manifest itself in favour also of other music more often than is at present the case. also of other music more often than is at present the case. Genuine comprehension of the great in art, and its recognition under one manifestation only, involves a contradiction in terms. The programme consisted of the Prelude and "Good Friday" scene from "Parsifal," the "Meistersinger" Overture, that to "Die Feen," the "Lenz-lied" from the "Walküre," Lohengrin's narrative (from the third act of the opera), Liszt's symphonic poem "Mazeppa," Berlioz's "Carnaval Romain" Overture, and the "Kaisermarsch." The vocalists were Mr. Plunket Greene—whose singing of Gurnemans's music was full of dignity, nathos and charm—and Herr Willy Birrenkoven. dignity, pathos, and charm-and Herr Willy Birrenkoven, a recent Parsifal at Bayreuth, who, on this occasion, made his first appearance here. He sings with plenty of intelligence and feeling. His voice is a fine one, and its production is comparatively free from the defects of the German school. Herr Mottl's conducting, though marked by the qualities already referred to in these columns, fell somewhat short of perfection—in the matter of breadth particularly. We shall gladly welcome his return, which has, we hear, been already arranged for, and hope that by that time the disposition to over-rate his merits, which involves an injustice to others, will have abated. It is good to remember that there were strong men before Agamemnon.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERTS.

In honour of Rubinstein the Concert of November 24 In honour of Rubinstein the Concert of November 24 was partly changed, pieces by the Russian master being substituted for some of those in the arranged programme. The chief number in the scheme, however, the "Eroica" Symphony, was, of course, retained; indeed, its selection so long beforehand for the Concert destined "to celebrate the memory of a great man," must be regarded as a very remarkable coincidence. Rubinstein's D minor Pianoforte Concerts was very criticiselly played by Miss Adeline de Concerto was very artistically played by Miss Adeline de Lara, and his Overture to "Dimitri Donskoi," two of his These were sung by Mr. Santley, who also introduced a song that was quite unworthy of his distinguished talent.

The Concerto in C for violoncello and orchestra, introduced by Heir Popper at the Concert of the 1st ult., is attributed by that eminent virtuoso to Haydn. Unfortunately, the evidence adduced is inconclusive. The solo part was given to him by an old amateur in Vienna some twenty years ago, but it has not transpired whether the manuscript affords any clue to the identity of the author. As no traces of the accompaniment could be discovered at Esterhaz or elsewhere, Herr Popper has himself scored the work for an orchestra of the usual dimensions of Haydn's Concertos, and acquitted himself of the task with conspicuous skill and discretion. The Concerto, which is in spicuous skill and discretion. The Concerto, which is in three movements—an Allegro Moderato, an Andante, and an Allegro vivace—is of a decidedly pleasing character, and, if not written by Haydn, is certainly thoroughly Haydnesque both in form and spirit. Needless to say, it lost nothing of its due effect as interpreted by Herr Popper, who also introduced a very clever and well-written Hungarian Rhapsody of his own composition Mr. German conducted an excellent performance of the Mr. German conducted an excellent performance of the Suite arranged from his incidental music to "The Tempter." The sombre but richly scored Overture is the strongest and most impressive number of the Suite, but the Berceuse and Bacchanalian Dance are both excellent in WAGNER CONCERTS.

"Society" again mustered in force at the last Concert directed by Herr Mottl, and by its attitude proved that

Wagner Concerts workmanship and picturesque in colouring. Mr. Manns's poetic rendering of the "Unfinished" Symphony of Schubert is too well known to call for detailed notice. The playing of the wood-wind quartet, however, deserves

special praise. Miss Marie Brema sang two beautiful old Italian songs—"Se bel rio," by Rontani, and "Già il sole," by Alessandro Scarlatti—to an orchestral accompaniment added by Mr. S. P. Waddington, and rather perfunctorily played by the band. She was, however, very successful in two old Irish melodies, "Emer's Farewell to Cucullain" and a "Battle Hymn," specially orchestrated for her by Professor Stanford, the sentiment of the latter in particular being admirably brought out by her fervid style and admirable enunciation. The programme was completed by the Overture to "Tannhäuser."

On the following Saturday Mr. Manns revived the beautiful Symphony of Haydn known as "La Reine de France," which had not been heard at the Crystal Palace since 1866, and introduced to the Sydenham audience Goldmark's striking and picturesque "Sappho" Overture, which, it is worthy of note, occupied rather longer in performance than the Symphony. Both works, especially the Symphony, were finely played. Mdlle. Clotilde the Symphony, were finely played Mdlle. Clotilde Kleeberg gave an admirably clear and incisive rendering of the solo in Beethoven's E flat Concerto (No. 5), but her minor solos were hardly worthy of her talent. Mr. Stewart Macpherson's "Idyll" for orchestra, which was heard for the first time, proved an agreeable trifle, though its merits are decidedly of a negative character. Mr. Ben Davies, who, we rejoice to see, is now rarely, if ever, heard in songs unworthy of his great ability, gave an admirable account of himself in Siegmund's "Love Song,"

from "Die Walküre," and Lieder by Robert Franz.

The programme of the tenth Concert, given on the 15th ult., was entirely devoted to the compositions of French composers. When, let us ask, is a French conductor likely to return the compliment? The great attraction of the afternoon was the performance, in its entirety, for the first time at the Crystal Palace, of Berlioz's remarkable dramatic Symphony "Roméo et Juliette." Most of the finest movements of this brilliant, though unequal work are known to Concert-goers, but they undoubtedly gain greatly by being heard in their proper context; while of the less familiar scenes the Funeral March and Lamentation over *Juliet*, and the splendid *Finale*, with its triple chorus, proved highly impressive. The orchestra played very well indeed, and the chorus acquitted themselves creditably on the whole. Of the principals, Mr. Norman Salmond was conspicuous by his fine singing in the rôle of Friar Laurence, while Miss Dews and Mr. Wareham were moderately successful in the contralto and tenor solos respectively. miscellaneous second part included the graceful Overture,
"La Chasse du jeune Henri," by Méhul, and a somewhat
invertebrate "Méditation" from Massenet's "Thaïs."

MR. MOBERLY'S CONCERT.

AMATEUR orchestral societies have within the present generation obtained prominence in the musical life of London, but it has been reserved for the reverend gentleman whose name heads this notice to bring to prominence and admiration in the metropolis an association of seventyfive lady performers on stringed instruments. We have, on previous occasions, spoken in terms of praise concerning Mr. Moberly's fair amateurs, but their playing at the Concert in the Princes' Hall, on the evening of the 4th ult., eclipsed all previous efforts. The selection of the programme, no less than its interpretation, was eminently commendable, the principal features being quite unfamiliar to ordinary frequenters of Concerts. The first piece was Handel's spirited Concerto Grosso in D minor, with solo parts for two violins and violoncello, excellently played by Misses Winifred Holiday, Amabel Marshall, and Maud Misses Winifred Holiday, Amabel Marshall, and Maud Fletcher. Then Russian music assumed prominence, the first number in this direction being a "Mélancolie," by Napravnik, a composer Czechish by birth, but Russian by many years' residence and artistic labour. Next came pieces by Borodin and Rymsky-Korsakoff, and finally Tschiakowsky's piquant Suite in C (Op. 48), which the regretted composer conducted at a Philharmonic Concert in 1888. The vocal pieces, rendered by Mrs. Hutchinson and Miss Margaret Barter, were scarcely less interesting. and Miss Margaret Barter, were scarcely less interesting. Two songs by J. J. Rousseau, arranged by Mr. J. A. Fuller collected and edited, with new and tasteful accommaitland, pleased greatly; and the airs and duets of De la paniments, by Johannes Brahms. They are delightful

Borde (a contemporary and pupil of Rameau) and Cheru-bini were also agreeable features of a remarkably artistic entertainment. The playing of the young ladies was marked throughout by vigour and refinement.

MONDAY AND SATURDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

It will be unnecessary to deal at length with Mr. Arthur Chappell's entertainments this month: but in order to render the record complete we must commence with the Concert of Saturday, November 24, when Lady Hallé led a beautiful performance of Mozart's Quintet in G minor, the programme likewise containing Chopin's Fantasia in F minor (Op. 49), played with refinement by Madame Haas, and Rubinstein's favourite Sonata in D for pianoforte and violoncello (Op. 18), in which she was joined by Mr. Whitehouse. Miss Florence Lenton made a moderately successful appearance as the vocalist. The programme of the following Monday was of an equally quiet nature, but Madame Haas might easily have selected something more suitable than a transcription of Bach's great Organ Prelude and Fugue in A minor as her pianoforte solo. Mozart's Quartet in F (No. 8), Brahms's Sonata in G for pianoforte and violin, and Chopin's Introduction and Polonaise for pianoforte and violoncello (Op. 3) were the concerted works in the scheme, and Miss Florence Christie gave much pleasure by her tasteful singing of Brahms's "Mainacht," Sullivan's "Willow Song," and the Old English ballad, "Golden Slumbers."

Adverse meteorological conditions doubtless affected the attendance on Saturday, the 1st ult., for the programme was attractive. Schubert's Quartet in A minor (Op. 29), sometimes known as the "Hungarian" Quartet, and always a favourite, and Beethoven's magnificent Pianoforte Trio in D (Op. 70, No. 1) were the concerted works, and the pianoforte solo was Weber's brilliant Sonata in C (No. 1), for the revival of which, as well as for an artistic rendering, Miss Agnes Zimmermann deserves thanks, for Weber's Sonatas have been rather neglected of late. The vocalist was Mr. Santley, who sang with his customary vigour Handel's air "Nasce al bosco," and three not very interesting though neatly-written songs by Ellen Wright. Mr. Ould did good service as the violoncellist on this occasion.

The programme of Monday, the 3rd ult., commenced with an interesting novelty—namely, Frederic Smetana's String Quartet in E minor, this being the first time that the name of the deceased Bohemian composer has appeared at these Concerts. Among modern Czechish musicians Smetana certainly holds a high place, and he is much entitled to regard as a preceptor of his more gifted fellow-countryman, Antonin Dvorák.

The Quartet is more noteworthy for general Bohemian characterisation than for individuality. The themes are all bold and strongly rhythmical, if somewhat rugged in phraseology, and the workmanship is decidedly free in outline and detail; but the work interests because it is so far removed from conventionality. It is national music, and, as such, commands more attention than "Kapellmeister" music. The interpretation was somewhat rough, but the reception of Smetana's work was very cordial. By some accident a little-known Fantasia in C minor, by Mozart, was analysed in the book; but Mr. Slivinski played the familiar Fantasia associated with the masterly Sonata in C minor. Miss Thudichum gave an intelligent rendering of Massenet's expressive song "Pensée d'Automne," and Schumann's Pianoforte Trio in F (Op. 80) concluded the Concert.

At the Concert of Saturday, the 8th ult., the revised version of Brahms's early Pianoforte Trio in B major (Op. 8) headed the programme, Mr. Emil Sauer making his first appearance at Mr. Arthur Chappell's performances. Those who listened attentively must have been fully satisfied with his share in the Trio, as he subordinated his individuality, and did not make his part obtrusive. Subsequently, Mr. Sauer gave Chopin's Sonata in B minor (Op. 58) as effectively as at one of his recent Recitals, and though recalled five times firmly declined to play again. For this he should be praised. So should Miss Fillunger

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lyrics, and Miss Fillunger sang the selection on this occasion with the utmost taste. We shall hear more of

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On Monday, the 10th ult., Smetana's Quartet was repeated with increased effect. Mr. Isidor Cohn played Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasia in C (Op. 15) correctly, though without much expression, and Brahms's Pianoforte Quartet in G minor (Op. 25) completed the number of instrumental works. Miss Dale sang in a charming manner two songs by an Italian composer named Putti, and Bemberg's "L'Amour est pur," from "Elaine." There was an overflowing attendance at the last Saturday Concert before Christmas, on the 15th ult., when Mr. Sauer was again the pianist. His rendering of Beethoven's great Sonata in F minor, known as the "Sonata Appassionata," was rather too effeminate to be altogether satisfactory to lovers of the Bonn master's music; but Mr. Sauer deserves commendation for again steadfastly declining an encore. His share in Rubinstein's Pianoforte Trio in B flat (Op. 52), in which the other executants were Lady Hallé and Herr Popper, was wholly praiseworthy. Miss Esther Palliser was very pleasing in songs by Schumann and Massenet, and Beethoven's Quartet in G (Op. 18, No. 2) completed the programme.

At the final performance before Christmas, on Monday, the 17th ult., a capital programme was headed by Dvorák's latest Pianoforte Trio in E minor (Op. 90), entitled "Dumky"—a title for which, we are told, there is no exact English equivalent, the nearest being "elegies." Dvorák has used it before in his instrumental works, and in the present instance there are no fewer than six examples of the "Dumka." The Trio is curiously constructed, consisting of a number of brief sections, instead of four movements in the usual forms, so that the term fantasia might well apply to it. Like everything of Dvorák's, it is purely original music, owing nothing to any other composer. As a matter of justice, it should be said that Mr. Isidor Cohn was the first to introduce the "Dumky" to London amateurs, at a Concert in St. James's Hall, on June 12 last. On the present occasion the pianoforte part was taken by Mr. Leonard Borwick, who subsequently gave an intellectual and, as to manipulation, wonderfully accurate rendering of Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques (Op. 13). The only other concerted work was Haydn's Quartet in E flat (Op. 71, No. 3). Miss Thudichum was again the vocalist, and rendered songs by Schäffer, Lassen, and Saint-Saëns with

purity of style.

THURSDAY SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS.

The first part of the Concert in the Queen's (Small) Hall, on the 6th ult., consisted solely of compositions by Schumann. The most elaborate example of this master was the Trio in F (Op. 80) for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello, rendered in the most sympathetic manner by Messrs. Septimus Webbe, Otto Peiniger, and Hans Adolf Brousil. The "Stücke im Volkston," played with finish by Mr. Brousil, also figured in the programme. Miss Ethel Bevans acquitted herself well in the song "Jephtha's Daughter" (Op. 95), and Mr. Franklin Clive earned approval for his delivery of the ballade "Belshazzar" (Op. 57). Mr. William Nicholl successfully terminated the Schumann selection by singing, with perfect command of the minutest gradations of feeling, "Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'" (Op. 24, No. 4) and "Widmung" (Op. 25, No. 1). In the second part this true artist imparted renewed interest to Sullivan's "The Sailor's Grave," and Miss Ethel Bevans made further friends by her reading of Goring Thomas's "A Summer Night." Mr. Clive was also excellently suited in his songs. Mr. Peiniger gave as violin solo Sarasate's arrangement of Chopin's Nocturne in E flat, and Mr. Webbe played the Polish composer's Nocturne in F sharp minor and Henselt's "Si oiseau j'étais."

MR. EMIL SAUER'S PIANOFORTE RECITALS.

It would seem as if the unexpected appearance of such a gifted performer as Mr. Emil Sauer had frightened away other foreign pianists from London, for beyond his

appearances at St. James's Hall very little has to be recorded in the way of Pianoforte Recitals during the past few weeks. The first two performances of the Hamburg artist and virtuoso were noticed last month, and the remaining six may be conveniently summarised, At the third, which took place in St. James's Hall, on November 29, he gave a somewhat feminine reading of Beethoven's Sonata in F minor (Op. 57), and the inartistic transcription of Wagner's "Tannhäuser" Overture might well have been omitted; "Tannhauser" Overture might well have been omitted; but in Brahms's early Scherzo in E flat minor (Op. 4), Chopin's Fantasia in F minor (Op. 49), and minor pieces by Raff and Liszt, Mr. Sauer was heard at his best, and fairly electrified the audience. The 3rd ult. was the date of the fourth Recital, when splendid performances were given of Schubert's Fantasia in C (Op. 15) and Chopin's Sonata in B minor (Op. 58)—exquisite touch, marvellously correct execution, and poetic feeling being for once in close correct execution, and poetic feeling being for once in close alliance. The fifth Recital took place on Friday afternoon, the 7th ult., at which a singularly fine and generally artistic rendering was given of Beethoven's early Sonata in C (Op. 2, No. 3), and various minor pieces by Weber, Schumann, Chopin, Henselt, and Liszt. Another Beethoven Sonata headed the programme of the sixth Beethoven Sonata headed the programme of the sixth Recital, on the following Monday, the work being that in G (Op. 31, No. 1), which shows the master in his most genial mood. The slow movement of this was played with exquisite beauty of tone. Smaller compositions, by various composers, were included, and gave the audience a very high degree of pleasure. Not so the opening piece of the seventh performance on the evening of the 14th with which consisted of pleasure. Not so the opening piece of the seventh performance, on the evening of the 14th ult., which consisted of a disarrangement of Bach's Organ Prelude and Fugue in D, by D'Albert. Mr. Sauer made amends by a striking, if not wholly convincing performance of Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata, and various pieces by Schumann, Chopin, Dubois, Grieg, and Liszt. Mr. Sauer took his farewell, for the present, on the 17th ult., his programme including Beethoven's brief Sonata in F sharp (Op. 78), which is not often played. His performance of this, as well as of other smaller works by Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Henselt, Sgambati, and other writers, was rather quieter than usual-a matter that was explained by the statement that Mr. Sauer was unwell. At the close there was a remarkable demonstration, and the artist was persuaded into giving two extra pieces. Mr. Sauer must be fully convinced that he has won his way into the affections of London amateurs, and that he will be warmly welcomed when he returns to us next Spring.

MR. PLUNKET GREENE AND MR. LEONARD BORWICK'S RECITALS.

THE Song and Pianoforte Recitals recently commenced by the artists above-named are at once instructive and enjoyable, and they should be continued if practicable. The second, which took place at St. James's Hall, on Friday afternoon, the 14th ult., included a remarkably interesting number of songs. In the first series were Tannhäuser's "Busslied," composed, as to the melody, but certainly not as to the accompaniment, about 1240; other antiquarian songs dating from the fourteenth century, and beautiful modern lyrics by Brahms, Cornelius, and Hubert Parry. The second batch of vocal pieces was from the collection of "Songs of the English Counties," collected and edited by Miss Lucy Broadwood and Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland. It is rightly said that they do not possess the dramatic force of Celtic tunes, but they are exceedingly interesting, though the endeavour to identify a song with some particular county can rarely be successful, for many of these old lyrics may be found in differing versions in various counties. The selection of seven plaintive and humorous songs was admirably rendered by Mr. Plunket Greene. Concerning the pianoforte solos there is less to be said, but they included a vigorous Toccata in A by Purcell, Mozart's Sonata in D major (the finest and most elaborate of several works in this key), Beethoven's Variations in C minor, and some minor pieces by Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Chopin, all of which were beautifully played.

A DOLMETSCH CONCERT.

AT the Hall of Clifford's Inn, Fleet Street, on the 6th ult., Mr. Dolmetsch gave another of his delightful Concerts. This time, however, nothing more "ancient" than Bach was heard, the master being represented by the Concerto in D minor for harpsichord, with string quartet accompaniment; the Sonata in G for flute and viola d'amore, with accompaniment for harpsichord and violoncello; and the "Bauernkantate." But the "oldest inhabitant" of the metropolis cannot recall a performance of the last-named, and the Concerto and Sonata are certainly new to the present generation. Mr. Dolmetsch should be warmly thanked for bringing these admirable works to a hearing. As to the cantata, its humour and popular tone would make the neglect which has been its portion very difficult to explain, were we not accustomed to the dulness of the average Concert-giver. A more delightful and "taking" work it would be difficult to find; and it foreshadows Haydn and Mozart, in their popular moods, more, perhaps, than any work that preceded these masters. The soprano and bass solos (recitatives and airs) were sung with perfect taste and finish by Mrs. Hutchinson and Mr. David Bispham, and the accompaniments, for string quartet, flute, horn, and harpsichord were admirably played. These are "the names of the players": violins, Mr. A. Dolmetsch and Mr. J. A. Milne; viola, Mr. W. A. Boxall; violoncello, Miss H. Dolmetsch; flute, Mr. A. P. Vivian; horn, Mr. W. Blandford; viola d'amore, Mr. A. Dolmetsch; and harpsichord, Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland. The harpsichord, a remarkably fine instrument, lent by Mr. Maitland, was played by its owner with a degree of skill and refinement that merits warm recognition. This Concert should be repeated "farther West" at an early date.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

AT the Concert of November 29 the beautiful String Octet in A, by Johann Svendsen (Op. 3), which had not been heard in London for about twelve years, was excellently played, and caused surprise that such an interesting work should have been so strangely neglected by chamber music societies. Of the eight students, led by Mr. W. Ackroyd, who took part in the performance, two -viz., Miss Marie Motto (violin) and Miss Emma Smith (violoncello)—joined Miss Gwendolyn Toms (pianoforte) in Saint-Saëns's Trio in F (Op. 18), which was also given in a sympathetic and efficient manner. Miss Edith Foster essayed Beethoven's great Sonata in C minor (Op. 111), and surmounted its technical difficulties with much success. Misses Clementine Pierpoint and Florence Buckley sang.

Misses Clementine Pierpoint and Florence Buckley sang.
The last Concert of the term was given at the Imperial
Institute on the 12th ult. It opened with Weber's
"Oberon" Overture and included the air "Lascia amor,"
from Handel's "Orlando," sung by Mr. Francis Harford,
who should have the making of another Plunket Greene in
him; an air from Goring Thomas's "Nadeshda," expressively given by Miss Louise Kirkhy Lunn; and a Caprice sively given by Miss Louisa Kirkby Lunn; and a Caprice for violin and orchestra, by Guiraud. In this piece an interesting introductory slow movement raises expectations which the meretricious, tricky Allegro by no means justifies. It was played by Mr. William Ackroyd, a very gifted violinist, who combines a good, full, and exceptionally pure tone with a fluent technique. All these performances were, however, dwarfed into insignificance by the splendid rendering of Tschaïkowsky's "Symphonie Pathétique," which closed the Concert. This was played in memoriam of Anton Rubinstein, and no more suitable choice could have been made. For as Rubinstein was the greatest virtuoso Russia has ever produced, so this Symphony is undoubtedly the highest achievement of the Russian school of composition. Having heard the work five times now, we do not hesitate to say that we know only two pieces in symphonic music — viz... Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphonic music — viz., Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and Wagner's "Faust" Overture—which were so evidently written with the composer's very heart's blood, as the wonderful, unique first movement, with its portrayal of abject misery and fervent hope, passionate yearning and cruel disappointment, fierce defiance and yearning and cruel disappointment, fierce defiance and remarks as to its undoubted merits are not required. But turbulent strife, and, finally, noble resignation, the whole it is only just to Dr. A. C. Mackenzie, and the large

forming such a series of mood pictures as has perhaps no equal in music. That Tschaïkowsky should have enriched the world with this astounding chapter of musical autobiography just before his decease is one of the most blography lust before his decease is one of the history touching things in the history of our art. As we have already said, the performance of the extremely difficult work was splendid. We very much doubt whether there is a conservatoire of music on the Continent which could equal this achievement of the "College" pupils, under their able Conductor, Professor Stanford.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC-OPERA.

LEO DELIBES'S Opera "Le Roi l'a dit" was produced in Paris in May, 1873, but until the pupils of the Royal College added it to their répertoire it had not been heard in England. On the 13th ult., at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, under the direction of Professor Stanford and Mr. Richard Temple, they performed the charming work in a way that spoke highly for the system of training in vogue at Kensington Gore. There were no "stars"—no performers, that is to say, who showed genius, or even talent, above the average; but intelligence of a high order showed above the average; but intelligence of a fight order showed tisself in every direction, and an ensemble of quite exceptional merit was the result. "Le Roi l'a dit" was admirably chosen for the end in view. It contains a great number of characters, and demands grace of movement, humour, finish, and refinement, both of acting and singing, rather than depth or intensity of feeling. The "young and inexperienced" performers who were responsible for the chief characters found themselves consequently saddled with duties not beyond their means. They were not called upon to be tragic, or to deal with emotions needing a lifetime for due comprehension. They had to deal with matters within their ken-love-making, humorous deceit, mischief, bumptiousness, comic distress, and the like. the same time the costumes and manners of the period of the action (Louis XIV.) make more than common demands on grace of movement and "style" generally, so that the excellence of ensemble secured is not one to be at all minimised on account of a plot remarkable for its freedom from tragic incident. It is no small achievement to have moved gracefully through small achievement to have invest gractury through a comedy of the Louis Quatorze epoch, and to have carried off successfully the humorous episodes with which this particular specimen of the kind abounds. Where so much excellence was shown it is difficult to particularise without unfairness; but we cannot help thinking that the daily and weekly press notices have scarcely done justice to the singing or acting of the two young ladies (Miss Pierpoint and Miss Sim) who played the lovers, and the four who impersonated the daughters of the Marquis. The chief characters were played with far less tact than these, and have hitherto obtained the lion's share of praise.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE invitation operatic performance, given in the Tenterden Street Concert Room, on the 14th ult., cannot be regarded in the light of a public entertainment, and therefore is scarcely amenable to criticism. But it may be said that the young people displayed considerable individual and collective ability in scenes from the "The Magic Flute" and "Lohengrin," and the entire second act of "Carmen." Mr. G. H. Betjemann, the director of the operatic class, must be highly complimented on the result of his efforts, and still more at the readiness he displayed in taking the part of the principal smuggler, Dancairo, when the student who was to have sustained it found himself unable to appear. His son conducted the himself unable to appear. Carmen" selection.

The Orchestral Concert held in St. James's Hall, on the 18th ult., was rendered specially interesting by the first performance in London of Goring Thomas's posthumous cantata "The Swan and the Skylark." This charming, if not great work, was dealt with at sufficient length after its production at the recent Birmingham Festival, and further

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phalanx of executants under his control, to record that the music was exceedingly well rendered by all concerned. Among the soloists, the soprano, Miss Amy Sargent, and the contralto, Miss Gertrude Bevan, displayed exceptional promise. In the miscellaneous portion of the programme Miss Edith Greenhill (pianist) and Master Aldo Antonietti (violinist) were specially commendable.

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The final competition for the Steinway Grand Pianoforte, forming part of the public testimonial to Sir Augustus Harris, took place at the Royal Academy of Music on the 7th ult., when the prize was awarded to Edith O. Greenhill. On the following day the competition for the Heathcote Long Prize was held, and the prize was awarded to G. Herbert Fryer. The examiners highly commended Claude F. Pollard. The competition for the Sainton Dolby Prize also took place on the 8th ult. The prize was awarded to Lydia Care, the examiners highly commending Mary Bartlett, Hettie Johnson, and Minnie Price. The competition for the Rutson Memorial Prize (soprano vocalists) was decided on the 13th ult. The prize was awarded to Gertrude Hughes and the examiners highly commended Alice Crawley. The competition for the Robert Cocks and Co. Prize took place on the 17th ult. The prize was awarded to Gertrude Peppercorn, and the examiners highly commended Alicia Adelaide Needham. The Hine Exhibition was also decided on the same day. The prize was awarded to R. Neville Flux. The examiners highly commended Joseph Charles Holbrook. The competition for the Potter Exhibition was held on the 20th ult. The prize was awarded to Sabel Coates, and the examiners very highly commended Sybil Palliser and Edith Pratt. The competition for the Bonamy Dobree prize also took place on the same day. The prize was awarded to May H. Mukle, and the examiners highly commended Fred. B. Ranalow and David Jones.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC-LECTURES.

An interesting series of Lectures has been given during the past month by Professor Bridge. At the first of these, delivered on November 28, the lecturer gave a most instructive sketch of the life and writings of John Jenkins, and described the difference between the old contrapuntal style and what was at that period known as "the new music." Quotations were also read from the reminiscences of Roger North, and a Saraband containing much double stopping for the violin, which (played by Roger North) had aroused Jenkins's interest in the "new music," was cleverly rendered at sight by Miss Byford, a student of the Academy. "Mozart as a Teacher" formed the subject of the next Lecture, a subject upon which the Professor is peculiarly qualified to speak, as he is the possessor of Thomas Attwood's exercises, corrected by the great master, whose pupil he was for some time. It is scarcely necessary to add that so apposite a theme greatly interested the audience, and that the lecturer deduced several valuable lessons for the benefit of his listeners. Some excellent string quartet playing was contributed by E. E. Byford, F. Moss, Einhauser, and Mukle, students of the Institution. Early organ music and its writers provided abundant and instructive material for the next discourse, the illustrations being admirably played by Mr. G. W. Alcock.

ROYAL AQUARIUM, WESTMINSTER.

A Musical Exhibition, which will close on the 19th inst, was opened at the Westminster Aquarium on the 12th out. It is the second held at this establishment, and, like its predecessor, has been organised by Mr. E. A. du Plat, who is also responsible for the catalogue. The Exhibition is divided into two sections: trade exhibits, placed on the fallery. The former include exhibits by Messrs. J. B. Cramer, D'Almaine, Hawkes and Son, Procter (who shows some fine specimens of Hindoo musical instruments), W. Reeves, G. Withers, Gray and Davison, and many others; but the interest of musicians will naturally centre in the

loan collection. Here are arranged, in such a manner as to exhibit as far as possible their evolution, various types of instruments—the harp, the flute, the brass family, the pianoforte, the various instruments played with a bow, and the single and double reeds. There are several spinets and some very early pianofortes The tone of the latter is little louder than that of the spinets, and shows how gradually progress takes place. There is also a pianoforte with a writing-desk that belonged to Gounod, and was used by him during composition. The literary exhibits include autographs, manuscripts of historical and personal interest, and a number of printed works of more or less rarity and musical value. There are also portraits, various curiosities—such as Handel's watch, old programmes, &c.—and a number of Siamese and other Eastern instruments, together with many in use among savage tribes. The names of the ladies and gentlemen whose kindness has made this instructive collection possible are given in the catalogue, which also contains a description of the various exhibits, written concisely and without unnecessary parade of learning.

"CONTEMPORARY MUSIC."

SIR JOSEPH BARNBY read an instructive and suggestive paper on contemporary music, before a crowded audience, on November 29, at the London Institution. The lecturer said that the mistake was too often made of regarding music as an art in itself, and but little related to the general intellectual movement of the age. There was, however, intellectual movement of the age. There was, however, but one art, which expressed itself in diverse ways, called the drama, painting, architecture, or music. Every phase of art had its moral side; each provided an answer for the problem of life. So long as it put the problem, no matter how admirably, it had not completely justified itself. What the world needed in the true artist was a solution of the problem. Composers who expressed the conflict of the passions without harmonising them were like the minor poets. They were the minstrels of the age, but not its classicists. Bach found an answer in religious ecstasy, Beethoven in intellectual control, Wagner in the supremacy of passion. These were mighty, therefore, amongst the gods of musical art. If English music of the present day did not attain to the lofty heights reached by our German cousins, we might claim that it was the result of temperament rather than the lack of genius. Modern music was the reflection of the subtle undercurrents of emotion which marked an analytical age. To the proper expression of these emotional undercurrents were necessary a profound reflection and a romantic spirit. Germany by nature united these two qualities; she was at once the home of philosophy and the nursery of romance. England was more practical, more logical, more restrained. Music did not take a course at random, as if it were isolated and apart, but obeyed a general mental law, which, in common with the sister arts, it had to inexorably obey. The position, therefore, of contemporary music would be best seen by regarding the less vague and emotional art of contemporary draws. contemporary drama. If we considered the intellectual revolution that had swept over the human mind since the early part of the eighteenth century, it would not be diffi-cult to realize how the clear, simple, almost formal art of Haydn and Handel had passed into the intricate, restless, and rebellious art of Wagner and Brahms. The eighteenth century was what might be termed a synthetical age, as the nineteenth was an analytical age. In the eighteenth century it was not beyond the capacity of a learned man to be master of all the knowledge of his province. Ideas were not disturbed and complicated by the thousand and one minute considerations which more ample and scientific study had involved. Clear theories marked the position of every writer; there were, so to speak, no broken ends. It was not difficult to understand, therefore, how the mental attitude of the eighteenth century was what we termed classical—why, in poetry, we had Dryden and Pope, how Addison and Johnson filled up the outline of human life, how the drama dealt in general types, and how painting was characterised by a formal and conventional treatment. The same fate befell music; everything was dainty, pleasant, well regulated, clear, simple, ordered.

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admitted no question. It simply expressed, by the medium of sound, the complete but insufficient idea which the drama expressed by the medium of action, and painting

As the century drew to a close, however, science disturbed this spirit of complacency, and revolutionised the old narrow theories of life. Art became more realistic and natural. Literature had a purpose. The yearnings of man, his doubts, his fears, his hopes, his misgivings, his swift changes of emotion—all found a voice in the romantic music of the present day. Wagner was no mere miracle, suddenly revealed to an astonished generation. No man of genius was. Wagner merely fulfilled the vocation of greatness—to express what all men were on the point of saying. Whatever there might be in modern music that was complex, hard to understand, wild, wayward, unregulated, or mysterious was due to the corresponding

attitude of the mind of the present age.

Concerning the present position of musical art and whither we were tending, Sir Joseph spoke with some diffidence, for he said he was like the man who, standing in the doorway of a cathedral, was asked to describe the form of the building above him. The only guide was to reason by analogy. Broadly, the history of musical art presented a series of developments, each of them attaining a culminating point, which was succeeded by a gradual deterioration nearly extending to dissolution, a new style almost insensibly arising from the ashes of the old to once more follow the inevitable law of nature as well as art. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw the highest development of choral music, as exemplified in the masses of Palestrina, the anthems of Orlando Gibbons, and the madrigals of Wilbye and Benet. Purcell arose and showed that music could be written full of emotional expression and yet free from the more learned devices of a past time. Bach was the logical outcome of this new movement, and while he was developing the emotional side of music he was—possibly unconsciously—sowing the seed of music he was—possibly unconsciously—sowing the seed of another new departure, that of instrumental colouring, later on to reach a culminating point in the hands of Beethoven. Whilst this was going on, the foundations of the Romantic School were being laid by Weber, which, with the collateral assistance of Chopin and Berlioz, was to result in Wagner. This last-named composer had because the large of the property of supplied the supplied to the control of the property of t bequeathed us a legacy of such daring and supreme originality as to leave us dazzled by its brilliancy and almost paralysed by its splendour. From this state of paralysis we were only now slowly emerging. We could never be the same as before this influence fell upon us. His influence was perceivable in all classes of music, from the highest to the lowest. It was not confined to one country, it was universal, and even those who stubbornly refused to accept his doctrines were insensibly, but no less surely, swayed by their power. The lecturer concluded by appealing to his audience to encourage English composers by lending a willing ear to their compositions.

The various phases of thought that music had recorded

were exemplified by the performance of a number of vocal and instrumental solos, which were admirably interpreted by Miss Evelyn Ogle, Miss Edith Leslie, Miss Madeline Payne, and Mr. Charles Phillips (pupils of the Guildhall

School of Music).

HIGHBURY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

For many years past the Highbury Philharmonic Society, conducted by Mr. G. H. Betjemann, has presented a commendable example of artistic earnestness and enterprise, and in this, its seventeenth season, the choir has attained a high standard of excellence. This was attested on November 27, when a performance was given of Sir Arthur Sullivan's beautiful cantata "The Golden Legend," the merit of which has rarely, if ever, been surpassed by any suburban choral body. The magnificent Prologue was sung with a dramatic force that showed the singers to have fully grasped the dramatic significance of the text, and the beautiful "Evening Hymn" was rendered with a firmness and expression that led to the crowded audience insisting on its repetition. Equally effective interpretations were given of "Me receptet Sion illa," and the fine Epilogue, the vocalists being ably supported throughout

the work by an excellent orchestra. No critical remarks are required concerning the soloists, as they were Madame Albani, Madame Hope Glenn, Mr. Iver McKay, Mr. G. R. Betjemann, and Mr. Watkin Mills. The Society announces the performance of Hofmann's melodious cantata "Fair Melusina," on the 29th inst.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

"From brain to keyboard. New and complete practical solution of all technical difficulties." Such was the somewhat assertive title of the paper read by Mr. W. Macdonald Smith before a numerously attended meeting of the Musical Association, on the 11th ult., at the Royal College of Organists, We have had so many disappointments from "new solutions" and the assumed discoveries of "royal roads," that it is not surprising that Mr. Smith had to face a critical, not to say even somewhat sceptically inclined, The lecturer began by deprecating the long hours of practice to which most pianists were subjected, which, he maintained, in many instances " ate the soul out of their playing," besides sometimes inducing physical dis-ablement. He had devoted the spare time of nine years to earnest study of the subject of technique, and in his opinion all the apparatuses that had been hitherto devised fell short in the accomplishment of their object. What was com-monly known as a "beautiful touch" was held by many to be a gift and an attainment not to be taught. By his method, however, he believed it could be imparted to the large majority of pianists. After showing that the hand was naturally ill adapted for perfect control of the keyboard, and that the majority of exercises did not rapidly give independent action of the fingers, the lecturer explained his new system. This was based on the physiological fact that a muscle was most nourished during the periods of rest that followed its full contraction and expansion, which induced a greater flow of blood upon which the muscle fed. Executive command was the result of perfect development of all the muscles that were used by the pianist. An untrained hand would execute a better shake with the index and longest fingers than many pianists could with their fourth and fifth, because the muscles of the first-named fingers were fully developed, whereas those first-named fingers were fully developed, whereas those of the last-named were not so. Repetition of a certain action did not insure growth of the proper muscles for the execution of that action, because when the proper muscles were too weak to give the result striven for, stronger but improper ones were unconsciously called into play, the result being not only non-attainment of the object, but frequently awkward and clumsy movements. The natural desire for full muscular contraction and expansion was seen in the flourish made by penmen before writing, and in many actions unconsciously indulged in by pianists before and during their performances. On the other hand, partial contraction did not cause the same amount of blood to visit the muscle, and there was reason amount of blood to visit the muscle, and there was reason to believe that quick and reiterated half-contractions, whereby the muscles were used without being properly nourished, were the cause of muscular cramp and other serious ailments to which many workers were subject. Executive difficulties vanished when perfect muscular control was obtained, but to obtain that control it was necessary to develop certain muscles peculiarly used by the pianist. For this purpose Mr. Smith has devised a systematic series of actions-several of which are new-for the hand and arm, based upon established physiological facts.

In the discussion which followed, the chairman, Mr. Walter Macfarren, said that, although he believed gymnastic exercises to be undoubtedly helpful, he did not think we should ever do without technical exercises, by which hitherto our great pianists had acquired their command over the keyboard. A valuable testimony of the efficacy of Mr. Smith's system was borne by Mr. Threlfal, who said that although he had only practised the method for some ten minutes daily for about three months, he had experienced great benefit from it, and found he had acquired much greater digital independence. He considered the results in his case the more remarkable, as he was not a trained pianish. and had never gone through a course of technical study.

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l pianist, study. The Westminster Abbey Chant Book. Arranged and edited by the Rev. J. Troutbeck, D.D., and J. Frederick Bridge, Mus. Doc. (Third edition, enlarged.)
[Novello, Ewer and Co.]

THE appearance of Dr. Troutbeck's "Paragraph Psalter," recently reviewed in these columns, necessitated, of course, the production of a chant book to match. We do not by any means intend to imply that the "Paragraph Psalter" can only be used in conjunction with the "Westminster Chant only be used in conjunction with the "Westminster Chant Book"; on the contrary, clergy or organists can select their own chants and apply them to the new Psalter in any way they may like. On the other hand, this new edition of the "Westminster Chant Book" will prove to be of the greatest value to those who do not use either the "Paragraph" or "Cathedral" Psalter. New chants are always being required from time to time to replace those which too-long use has rendered rather tiresome; and there is nothing short of a mine of new chants in this chant book—a mine in which church musicians will certainly not dig without discovering many treasures. But, though the "Paragraph Psalter" and the new "Westminster Chant Book" may be used quite independently—the Psalter to other chants, the chants to any other Psalter—yet much interest will naturally be taken in this chant book as revealing the exact wishes of taken in this chant book as revealing the exact wishes of Dr. Troutbeck as to the sort of music to which, in his opinion, the Psalms should be sung, and the trustworthy verdict of Dr. Bridge on the quality of the chants now provided. Those who, like the present reviewer, have heard the Psalms as now chanted from the "Paragraph Psalter" in our venerable Abbey, must have been struck by the peculiar fitness of the association of words and music. Passing over the plentiful supply of chants for the Canticles, amounting to no less than seventy in number, we will at once say a few words about the chants for the daily Psalms. To any one who will take the trouble to go through the Psalter with these chants at his side, it will through the Psailer with these chants at his side, it will be at once evident that many of the Psailms here find a musical treatment which brings their meaning into remarkable prominence. The old-fashioned way of going hum-drum through the whole of the Morning or Evening Psailms to one chant (double or single) without any change has, however, only recently died out, and there are even now many organists who look upon a change of chants in the middle of a Psalm with some suspicion. To such, the chant book before us will present many novelties, notably the bold use of three-phrase or triple chants in all cases where the poetic construction of the Psalm makes it fall naturally into groups of three verses. Of course, there must be careful rehearsal of the singing of Or course, there must be careful renearsal of the singing of psalms, even by the most skilled choirs, if equal justice is to be done to the words and to the music; but we are convinced that the result will show that the labour has not been in vain. When a choir has become quite familiar with the value would be a supplying the property of the proper with the new association of the music with the words, so as to be able to pass on smoothly from chant to chant without the dread of stumbling, then not only the choir, but the congregation also will take more interest and realise a deeper meaning in this our ancient heritage of inspired lyrics. It would be an invidious as well as a lengthy task to select special new chants for commendation from amongst such a plentiful store of really good specimens from the pen of the best-known church musicians of our day; it must suffice to say the "moderns" seem quite able to hold their own against the "ancients," and, if we are not mistaken, there are many chants here which will linger in churches and cathedrals, dear to the hearts and voices of future generations.

Recitation-Music Series. Composed by Stanley Hawley. The Bells, Edgar Allan Poë; Lorraine, Lorree, Charles Kingsley; Soul Music, Whyte Melville.

[Robert Cocks and Co.]

The various combinations of music and recitation—such as Dr. Mackenzie's "Dream of Jubal" and "Eugene "awkward" extant, and the Aram, "Schumann's "Manfred," and so on—have drawn than 100 pages is likely to considerable attention, during recent years, to the affinities pianists who desire to ecof the two arts. And further interest is likely to be selves the labour of search.

awakened among those who occupy themselves with such subjects by these settings of Mr. Stanley Hawley's; for in them the union between the spoken verse and the music is much closer than in any previous work of the kind. In the first place, the music, though quite modern in style, appeals but little to the listener on its own account—its thematic interest is by no means striking, and no attempt is made to achieve effects of the kind usually found in "programme music." It supplies an "atmosphere," so to speak, and little more. But, on the other hand, it is continuous—there are no pauses for the recitation. And the verse is no more an independent thing than the music; it is written over each bar in as close a connection with the tones, in respect of rhythm, as any song. The result of the combination upon reciters it is too early as yet to foresee—they are certainly fettered, but are at the same time helped to a remarkable extent. It is but fair to say that on each occasion these pieces have been given in public they have met with remarkable success.

The Parish Choir Book. Nos. 155-160. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

Many numbers of this useful series of Service music have recently been issued, but for the present briet comment on a few must suffice. The Athanasian Creed has generally proved a source of difficulty to composers on account of its length, and a single chant of the utmost simplicity usually suffices. A setting by E. H. Birch, the first on the above list, though mainly formed on one chant of the usual pattern used for this canticle—namely, in divisions of three and two bars each—is varied alike in melody and harmony. No. 156 is Samuel Sebastian Wesley's setting of the Nicene Creed from the composer's fine Service in E, concerning which it would be almost an impertinence to offer words of commendation. The next is a Benedicite in B flat by J. Varley Roberts. This is in free chant form, the customary triple measure being employed, and the voices alternately in unison and in fourpart harmony. The version should prove effective, and it is certainly not difficult. No. 158 is a similar Te Deum, that is to say, a setting founded upon a double chant by Dr. E. J. Hopkins, varied in a skilful manner, and, of course, with the permission of the composer, by J. T. Field. In Mr. Field's Benedictus, No. 159, we have a simple chant setting with delightfully varied, but not difficult accompaniment. In No. 160, the last for the present, we have another of Mr. Field's clever arrangements. This is a Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, the former arranged on the groundwork of a double chant by the late J. Turle, and the latter on a single chant by the late Sir George Elvey.

Three Sonatinas for the Pianoforte. By W. R. Driffill. [E. Donajowski.]

THESE works may be recommended to teachers of young pianists as conducive to the cultivation of the sense of form. The first, in the key of F, is remarkably simple and easy to play; the others demand greater executive ability, the third, in C, being most advanced; but all the passages lay well under the hand, and the melodiousness of the themes and their treatment are calculated to sustain the interest of the player.

Exercices Journaliers (Daily Exercises) pour le piano. Par J. Philipp. Préface par C. Saint-Saëns. [Paris: Durand et Fils.]

THESE exercises are intended only for very advanced players. They are of eight kinds: extensions and passages for developing independence of finger; left hand difficulties; scales; arpeggios; double notes; shakes; octaves and wrist passages generally; rhythmic exercises. But the chief value of the work lies in the fact that each difficulty is exemplified by passages chosen from the works of no less than thirty-six composers of the first rank, from Bach and Handel to Liszt, Tschaïkowsky, Rubinstein, and Saint-Saëns. These passages are amongst the most "awkward" extant, and their collection in an album of less than 100 pages is likely to prove of great convenience to pianists who desire to economise time and save themselves the labour of search.

Eolian. Romance for violoncello with pianoforte accompaniment. By Walter Alcock.

La Speranza. Romance for violoncello or violin with pianoforte accompaniment. By Frank D'Alquen.

Berceuse. For violin with pianoforte accompaniment. By Herbert Sharpe.

Caprice. For violin with pianoforte accompaniment. By Cecil Gann.

Rêverie. For violoncello, or violin and pianoforte. By Noel Johnson.

[Charles Woolhouse.]

ALL these may be welcomed to the rapidly growing repertory of violinists and violoncellists. Mr. Alcock's Romance is a well-told tale which will be heard with interest. Mr. D'Alquen's "Speranza" is of a bright description, although it would have been more effective had it harped less on one string. The Berceuse would scarcely lull anyone to sleep except those endowed with an energetic temperament. Appropriate fancifulness distinguishes the Caprice, but its humours present no special difficulties to master. The Rêverie partakes of the nature of a mental debate concerning "to be, or not to be," which sometimes assumes an agitated character.

Organ Arrangements. Edited by George C. Martin. Nos. 19-23. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

HAYDN's introduction to his masterpiece, the "Creation." which he terms "Representation of Chaos," and in which many harmonic progressions now in common use are anticipated, forms an effective organ piece, and has been transcribed with much skill. No. 20 of these arrangements is the first movement of Schubert's great Pianoforte Sonata in A minor (Op. 42). Here the editor treads on somewhat dangerous ground, but, judging from the careful directions for registering, the music should prove very effective in its new guise. Similar remarks may apply to No. 21, the second movement of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony in B minor, and No. 22, the third movement from Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony in E flat. Mr. W. H. Stocks is the transcriber of the Haydn excerpt, Mr. Arthur B. Plant that of Schubert, and Mr. W. A. C. Cruickshank of the two selections last named. No. 23 is a Solemn March from a canata, "The Black Knight," by Edward Elgar, arranged by the composer. It is a brief but effective piece in a distinctly modern style, and may be warmly commended to the notice of organists as a concluding voluntary.

Practical Harmony. A concise treatise, including the harmonization of melodies, with progressive exercises. By Stewart Macpherson. [J. Williams.]

The aim of this book is sufficiently indicated by its title, but, as other works of similar intention exist, the author explains that his book is meant to occupy a position midway between the primer and the theoretical treatise. As regards his principles, he avows himself an adherent of the Day system as modified by Macfarren and Prout. We are glad to see that in the examples only the treble and bass clefs are used. The volume is divided into three parts, which treat successively of Diatonic Harmony, Chromatic Harmony, and the Harmonization of Melodies, with Modulation. The information is tersely conveyed, and the examples well chosen.

Miniatures. Quatre Morceaux pour piano. Composés par Erik Meyer-Helmund (Op. 136). [Forsyth Brothers.]

THESE are light, attractive little pianoforte pieces. The Menuet is quaint, so also the Trio, yet it forms a marked contrast. The melodious Petit chanson d'amour reminds one somewhat of a certain Rubinstein piece. The Valse mignon and Marche des Gnomes are equally effective.

The Maid and the Elf. Springtime. Written and composed by Kate Willis. [Weekes and Co.]

BOTH these songs are bright and attractive. They are, moreover, effectively written for a soprano voice, probably for the composer's sister, and the words express graceful ideas in a happy manner.

Seven Songs for Mezzo-Soprano. The words selected from the poems of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. The music by Sydney Thomson. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

THE poems selected are "Ask me no more," "Tears, idle tears," "The Miller's Daughter," "The Poet's Song," "As thro' the land," "Now sleeps the crimson petal," and "Go not, happy day." Although described as written for a lady's voice, some of these songs would obviously come more appropriately from the lips of a man. With this exception and the unnecessary repetition of words, which hinders the dramatic significance in some of the songs, the settings may be recommended to the attention of cultured vocalists as expressive and worthy of their text.

Rosalind's Madrigal. Words by Thomas Lodge (1556). Music arranged by A. L. [Metzler and Co.]

This quaint and graceful song has been so often sung by Miss Liza Lehmann at the "Pops" and elsewhere that its merits are fairly well known. Those who have not had the pleasure of hearing Miss Lehmann sing it may be told that a voice of considerable purity and flexibility is needed to do it justice, and that the clearest possible enunciation of the words is also indispensable. The accompaniment is not difficult.

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Drinking Song. (Chanson à Boire.) Written by Racau. English words by Theo. Marzials. Composed by A. Goring Thomas. [Metzler and Co.]

This is a bold-spirited song calculated to make a cultured singer with a robust voice rejoice; that is, if he has a good accompanist—if not, he will do otherwise. It is just the song for a festive season.

Musicians and their Compositions. By J. R. Griffiths. [S. W. Partridge and Co.]

"The object of these short sketches is to give the ordinary reader a general idea of some of the more prominent of the world's great composers." Thus begins the preface to this commendable little volume, which in pleasant chatty fashion deals with the lives and works of Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. No small merit of the work is its low price, for the more reliable and cheap books we have upon composers and their divine art the greater will be the intelligent and widespread appreciation of good music.

Cossack Cradle Song. By Napravnik. Arranged, with English words, by F. E. Whishaw. [Boosey and Co.]

EVERY lover of a really beautiful and artistic song should at once add this one to his collection. The vocal melody is a delightful specimen of the Folk-song type, and the "accompaniment" is itself so melodious and charming that it might very well be played alone as a pianoforte piece with the same title. The effect of the combination, strangely enough, is not complex, but, on the contrary, simple and expressive to a degree. The song is a little masterpiece.

Three Octave Studies (Legato) for the Development of the Wrist. For Pianoforte. By B. Bækelman (Op. 14. No. 1). [Leipzig: Fritz Schuberth.]

The earnest student who practises these studies, with attention to the admirable manner in which they are phrased, cannot fail to acquire increased command in legato octave playing, especially by the left hand, which, in the majority of pianists, is deficient in this respect. The studies possess considerable melodic interest, the second, entitled "Cygnus," being very pleasing.

Written and Stojowski. [Stanley Lucas.]

PIANISTS who wish to add a striking and characteristic piece to their repertory may be recommended to purchase this composition. It requires a firm touch and spirited style for its effective performance, but presents no exceptional executive difficulties.

FOREIGN NOTES.

AMSTERDAM.—A new opera in one act, "Wit de branding," by Mynheer Richard Hol, was recently produced at the Dutch Opera, but very coldly received. And yet M. Hol is considered one of the foremost composers of

ANCONA.—" Nell 'harem' ("In the Harem") is the title of a new three-act opera which was produced here on the 1st ult. The composer is Signor Giulio Concina, who has

also written the libretto.

BERLIN.-Herren Hoffmann, Suk, Nedbal, and Wihan, forming the Bohemian String Quartet, have been giving two more Concerts, at which they performed works by Smetana, Ovorák, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, as well as an interesting Pianoforte Quartet in G minor (Op. 8), by the second violinist, Herr Suk. Their success was again phenomenal, and the critics could hardly find words in which to express their admiration of these young artists' wonderful playing. --- An interesting one hundred year old novelty was recently produced at the Mohr'sches Conservatoire. It consisted of a bass air and a chorus by Joseph Haydn. They are said to be all that exist of an Oratorio which, according to a note in the published score, was commissioned by Count Abingdon, but soon abandoned by the composer of the "Creation." The manuscript of the fragment is said to be in the British Museum.—A genuine success attended the recent Pianoforte Recital given by Mr. Ernest Hutcheson, from Melbourne. The young Australian, a pupil of Herr Stavenhagen, was quite unknown here, which makes his success all the more complete. He is a brilliant virtuoso and an excellent artist. "Advance, Australia!"—At a Concert given by Herr "Advance, Australia!"—At a Concert given by Herr Phillip Scharwenka in the Philharmonic Hall, three new works from his pen were produced. They were a Symphony in D minor, a Symphonic Poem for orchestra, "Traum und Wirklichkeit" ("Dream and Reality"), and a Violin Concerto played by the composer's wife.—The programme of the fifth Philharmonic Concert, conducted by Herr Richard Strauss, included a new Pianoforte Concerto in B flat minor (Op. 1), by Wilhelm Stenhammer. It was played by the composer, who is spoken of as a young musician of exceptional talent and who, after each of the four movements, was greeted with enthusiastic applause.—
Dr. Carl Krebs has been appointed Professor of Musical History at the Königliche Hochschule für Musik in the place of the late Professor Phillip Spitta, whose library, by the way, has recently been acquired by the Institution in question.—On the 1st ult. the 100th performance of Wagner's "Meistersinger" was given at the Royal Opera. Twenty-four years ago, on April 1, 1870, the first performance of this veritable wonderwork was received with storms of yells, hisses, and stamping, so that literally for minutes at a time not a sound of music could be heard. And this was in Berlin, not in Paris!

BOLOGNA.—On the 1st ult. a new three-act opera, entitled "Savitri," and composed by Signor Natale Canti,

was produced at the Municipal Theatre.

Bremen.—At the third Philharmonic Concert, Anton Rubinstein's fifth Symphony (in G minor) and his Overture to "Antonius and Cleopatra" were played in memoriam of the lamented Russian composer.—"Die General-probe" ("The General Rehearsal"), a one-act comic opera, by Lortzing, the composer of "Czar und Zimmermann," was given, for the first time, at the Town Theatre, on November 19, and, thanks to a spirited performance, pleased the audience greatly.

BRÜNN .- Paul Umlauft's prize opera, "Evanthia," was very favourably received on its recent first performance

CARLSRUHE.-Felix Mottl has once more produced an important work by a young composer, who, but for the great conductor's timely aid, might have waited many weary years before his music was brought to a hearing. "Ingwelde," before his music was brought to a hearing. "Ingwelde," a three-act music-drama (not opera!), the libretto by Count Ferdinand Sporck, the music by a highly talented young Rhinelander, of twenty-six, Max Schillings, was produced at the Court Theater on November and seading libretto and the court Theater on November and seading libretto and the court Theater on November and seading libretto and the Court Theater on November and seading libretto and the Court Theater on November and seading libretto and the Court Theater on November and seading libretto and the Court Theater on November and seading libretto and the Court Theater on November and the duced at the Court Theatre, on November 13, and exceedingly well received. It has been welcomed by some of the critics (such as the well-known Arthur Smolian) as the first really presence of the composer, who was once more the recipient original and important music-drama that has been produced of enthusiastic ovations. Herr Heinrich Vogl gave a

since Wagner, and an emphatic answer in the affirmative to the question whether that master has left a "school." The features upon which Herr Smolian specially dwells are the striking originality and beauty of Schilling's themes; his gifts of characterisation and truthfulness and nobility of expression. To these are added a complete mastery of all technical details, and more especially of the Wagnerian method of using the Leitmotif, as exemplified in the master's later works. The performance, with Frau Reuss-Belce, Herren Gerhäuser and Plank in the cast, was exceedingly

COLOGNE. — Professor Carl Reinecke's opera, "Der Gouverneur von Tours," was, on November 24, performed here at the Town Theatre, and the veteran composer, who was present, had the satisfaction of seeing the audience thoroughly pleased with his charming work.

DARMSTADT.—Tschaïkowsky's opera, "Eugeny Onegin," has been added to the répertoire of the Court Theatre. was recently performed for the first time under the

direction of Herr de Haan.

DESSAU. — The first performance of Humperdinck's "Hänsel und Gretel," at the Court Theatre, on November 30, was especially interesting, because Frau Cosima Wagner had put the work on the stage, and thereby once more proved herself one of the foremost stage managers of her time, if proof were needed after the successes of the Bayreuth Festspiele.

DRESDEN.—At the second Symphony Concert of the Royal Orchestra a new Suite, from Franz Curti's music to Holger Drachmann's melodrama, "Schneefried," was produced. The characteristic and effective work was excellently played under Capellmeister Hagen, and created a distinctly favourable impression.—Verdi's "Falstaff" was performed for the first time at the Court Theatre, on November 17, and, needless to add, astonished and delighted the critical audience.

FLORENCE.—Signorina Semiramide Colle, a young pianist of fourteen, has just given her first Recital here, playing the Mendelssohn Variations Sérieuses, the Gminor Ballade of Chopin, the Liszt "Midsummer Night's Dream" Fantasia, and other pieces which would be no trifle to a grown-up brain. She played these in a quite phenomenal manner, and made a marked success. Signorina Colle is a pupil of Signor Sgambati, the wellknown Roman virtuoso.

Frankfort-on-Main.-Berlioz's "Requiem" was per-FRANKFORT-ON-MAIN.—Bellio's Requirement formed for the first time here on November 21, by the Cäcilienverein, under the direction of Herr Grüters. performance was exceptionally fine, and the unique work

made a deep impression.

GENEVA.—On November 28 a new large concert hall, the Victoria Hall, was opened with appropriate ceremony. The splendid building has been erected by the British Consul, Mr. Daniel Barton. At the inaugural Concert, a new Symphony for orchestra and organ, by M. Widor, specially written for this occasion, and played by the composer, was performed with great success.

Hamburg.—Smetana's comic opera, "Zwei Wittwen"

("Two Widows"), was performed here for the first time on November 15, and achieved a genuine success.—Herr Pollini, the director of the Town Theatre, has just accepted a new opera, composed by Mr. James M. Coward, the London organist, to be produced this winter. He has also engaged Mr. Coward to supply him with another opera for

next autumn.

HANOVER .- Mr. Edgar Tinel's Oratorio "Franciskus" was performed for the first time in this town, on November 22, by the Musik-Akademie, under Capellmeister Frischen. The striking work, which, in Germany, seems to create a greater stir than any other Oratorio since Mendelssohn's Elijah," was most favourably received.

Kiel.—This town must be added to the list of those in which Herr Humperdinck's "Hänsel und Gretel" has been performed. The public was delighted with the work

when it was recently given here for the first time. LEIPZIG.—On November 12 Edgar Tinel's Oratorio "Franciskus," which was so enthusiastically received last winter, was again performed at the Albert Hall, in the Crystal Palace, under the direction of Dr. Paul Klengel and in the

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masterly performance of the title rôle.--At the sixth subscription Concert, in the new Gewandhaus, on November 15, a new cantata, entitled "Todtenfeier," by Heinrich von Herzogenberg (Op. 80), was performed, under the direction of the composer, and well received. It was originally produced about a year ago at a Concert given by the Königliche Hochschule, Berlin. -- On November 18 Schumann's only opera, "Genoveva," was revived at the Stadt-Theater.—At a Concert given on November 14, at the Royal Conservatoire of Music, two "novelties"—both of them posthumous works—were produced. They were a Concert-Overture by Robert Volkmann, which, to judge from the style of the music, dates from an early period of the composer's career; and an Elegy for five violoncelli, by Franz Lachner. The programme contained also a by Franz Lachner. The programme contained also a Symphony in C by Michael Haydn, a Suite for strings by G. Muffat, and Handel's "Fireworks" music, originally produced in the Green Park, April 29, 1749, at the fireworks given on the occasion of celebrating the Peace of Aix la Chapelle.—The Emperor William's "Sang an Ægir" was, on November 25, performed on the stage of the Town Theatre; but although the director had gone out of his way to provide elaborate scenic accessories for an appropriate decorative "background," the harmless music made not only no impression, but when a few persons attempted to show their approval in the usual way, their applause was immediately drowned by the energetic hissing of the rest of the audience. The Leipzigers are evidently more critical than loval!

Liège.-M. J. Jongen, of the Royal Conservatoire in this town, has been awarded the prize of 1,000 francs offered by the Academy of Fine Arts for the best String Quartet.

LIVORNO.—"Yoric" (anglicé, Yorick), a new lyric drama in three acts and four tableaux, written and composed by Signor Ettore Martini, was successfully produced, on the 1st ult., at the Goldoni Theatre. It is said to be a work of some value, but too long and too heavy, and sadly in want of cutting. Alas, poor "Yoric"!

LÜBECK.-" Sonnwendnacht" (Solstice Night) is the peculiar title of another addition to the lengthy list of oneact operas composed by German musicians in imitation of Mascagni, Its composer is B. Harmston, and it was produced with some success at the local Town Theatre, on November 27.

MANNHEIM.—On November 28 a new three act comic opera, written and composed by Albert Gorter, was produced at the Court Theatre, but only achieved a bare succès d'estime. The title of the work is "Der Schatz des Rhampsinit," which might be translated either "The " or "The 'Sweetheart' of Rhampsinit." 'Treasure'

MILAN .- M. Massenet's "Werther" was recently given for the first time at the International Lyric Theatre, and if an "explosion of applause," lasting ten minutes by the clock, such as, according to Le Ménestrel, followed the fall of the curtain, is any criterion of success, then M. Massenet has indeed succeeded.

Modena.—At the Municipal Theatre a one-act lyric scene, "Triste lotta," by Signor Minzugni, was recently

produced with success.

Munich.-Smetana's three-act grand opera, "Dalibor," was performed for the first time in German at the Court Theatre, on November 28, and was received with great The German translation of the libretto is by Max -" Franciskus," the work by which the Flemish composer, Edgar Tinel, is chiefly known in Germany, was recently given for the first time by the Musical Academy, with Herr Vogl and Fraulein Ternina in the chief rôles. The success of the Oratorio was undoubted.

NICE.—The Grand Théâtre opened its season with Wagner's "Lohengrin" on November 29.

PARIS .- At the Concerts Colonne a Berlioz cycle is in progress, during which the master's six works for chorus and orchestra—viz., "Roméo et Juliette," the "Requiem," "The Childhood of Christ," "Faust," "Lélio," and the Te Deum will be given. Each work will be performed twice—i.e., on two consecutive Sundays.—At the Lamoureux Concerts a genuine success has been obtained by the German violinist, Herr Hugo Heermann, in Brahms's Concerto in D. —The great event of the past month has been the 1,000th performance of Gounod's "Faust," which was celebrated with all possible solemnity and rejoicing, at the Grand the deceased master.

Opéra, on the 14th ult. It was not the 1,000th performance of the famous work at this theatre, but the 1,000th per-formance in Paris. For, as M. Arthur Pougin points out in an interesting article in Le Ménestrel, the Grand Opéra has given the opera only about 700 times. The original production took place on March 19, 1859, at the Théâtre Lyrique, with Madame Carvalho and M. Barbot in the principal rôles. But its success was so small, that up to October 30, 1862, when the Théâtre Lyrique was transferred to the Châtelet, only fifty-seven performances had been given. On March 3, 1869, the epoch-making work made at last a triumphant appearance on the stage of the Grand Opéra, when the cast included Mdlles. Nilsson (Marguerite) and Mauduit (Siebel', MM. Colin (Faust), Faure (Mephistopheles), and Devoyod (Valentin). On December 4, 1887, the 500th performance at the Grand Opéra was reached. At the jubilee performance, on the 14th ult., the cast consisted of Madame Caron (Marguerite), M. Alvarez (Faust), M. Delmas (Mephistopheles), M. Renaud (Valentin), Madame Deschamps-Jehin (Martha), and Mdlle. Agussol (Siebel). The final scene was omitted and replaced by a so-called Apothéose, composed by M. Ambroise Thomas to some verses by M. Jules Barbier, and sung by all the artists of the establishment as well as the chorus. They were dressed in the costumes of the characters in the various operas of the master, "Sapho," "Mireille," "Roméo et Juliette," "Polyeucte," &c., and as they stood in effective groups round his bust, the crowded house burst into enthusiastic applause, which did not abate until the Apothéose appiause, which did not abate until the Apotheose was repeated.——Schumann's opera "Genoveva" was performed for the first time in France at the Concert d'Harcourt of the 16th ult. A French translation had been specially made for this occasion by MM. Eugène d'Harcourt and Charles Grandmougin,

Pressburg.—A new opera, "The Orphan of Cordova," by Oskar Strauss-no connection with the many other musical Strausses, we suppose-was recently produced here

with considerable success.

ROME.—The unsuccessful production of a new two-act lyric drama, "Il Voto," by Signor Pietro Vallini, has to be chronicled. The event took place at the Constanzi Theatre, on November 27.

Rouen.—"Hermann et Dorothée," a three-act opera, founded by M. Julien Goujou on Goethe's poem, and composed by M. Frédéric Le Rey, was recently produced

with success at the Théâtre des Arts.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The remains of Anton Rubinstein were interred on November 28 with great solemnity in the cemetery attached to the monastery of St. Alexander Nevsky, the obsequies, which were of a very imposing character, lasting from an early hour until five o'clock in the evening. The funeral service in the Cathedral was the evening. The funeral service in the Cathedral was attended by six thousand persons, comprising the élite of the musical, theatrical, and literary world of St. Petersburg. besides deputations from the Imperial Theatre at Moscow, the Moscow Philharmonic Society, and other musical associations, to the number of ninety-two. The musical portion of the service, which was most impressive throughout, was magnificently rendered by a special choir of 200 voices. The vast square in front of the church was filled by an enormous crowd, and in the streets along the line of route to the place of interment, notably in the Nevsky Prospect, large numbers of spectators had assembled to witness the cortège, which extended to several kilomètres in length. Four funeral cars, laden with silver and floral wreaths, followed the car containing the remains, itself almost hidden beneath a mass of floral tributes. In front walked, besides the students of the Conservatoire, pupils from all classes of schools, to the number of several thousands, in addition to members of various public institutions, the clergy, and the bearers of the decorations which had been conferred upon Halts were made at the Conservatoire the deceased. founded by Rubinstein, and the Vladimir Church, in order that prayers might be offered. On reaching the monastery, after a progress marked by profound reverence on the part of the multitudes living the of the multitudes lining the route, the remains were placed in a temporary chapel hung with black, which had been erected over the tomb, and then lowered into the grave. A fund has already been started for erecting a monument w

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Words by T. NASH.

Composed by F. H. Cowen.

London: NOVELLO, EWER AND CO., 1, Berners Street (W.), and 80 & 81, Queen Street (E.C.) also in New York.



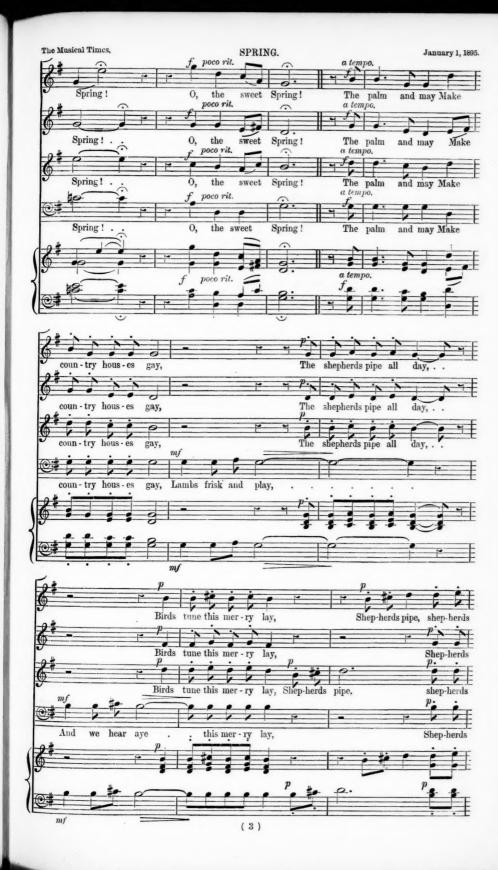
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The Musical Times, No. 623.

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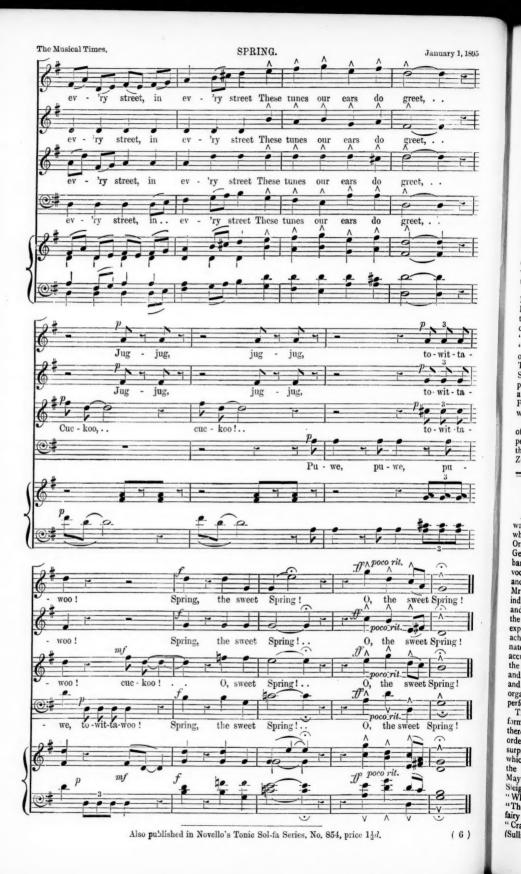
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VIENNA.-The musical winter season was opened on November 5 with a Concert devoted to compositions by Palestrina and Orlando di Lasso. Of the former master, the Mass "Ecce ego Johannes" and four madrigals, and of his Flemish contemporary two motets, "Jubilate" and "Super flumina," and the humorous double "Echo" chorus. "Ola! o che bon eccho," were included in the programme of this "Festival" Concert, which was conducted by Herr Theobald Kretschmann.—At the Court Theatre, Anton Smareglia's three-act opera, "Cornelius Schutt," was produced on November 23, and hit the taste of the audience. The composer 28 well as the audience. The composer, as well as the principal singers, Fräulein Lola Beeth and Herren Van Dyck and Grengg, were honoured with repeated calls.

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MUSIC IN BRISTOL.

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A REMARKABLY fine performance of Handel's "Messiah" was given on the 12th ult., by the Bristol Choral Society, which, notwithstanding its previous good knowledge of the Oratorio, assiduously studied it, under the guidance of Mr. George Riseley, for some weeks prior to the Concert. The George Riseley, for some weeks prior to the Concert. The band and choir numbered about 500, and the principal vocalists were Miss Agnes Spackman, Miss Jessie King, and Mr. Dean Trotter and Mr. W. Thomas in the places of Mr. Charles Chilley and Mr. W. J. Ineson, absent through indisposition; Mr. J. H. Fulford presided at the organ, and Mr. Riseley conducted. Airs so familiar as those in the Saxon's great work were safe in the hands of soloists so experienced as the ladies and gentlemen named. achievements of the choir, however, may be fittingly designated as brilliant, so grand were the power and tone, so accurate were the phrasing and enunciation, so careful was the marking of light and shade, and so firm was the attack and sharp the release, due in a great measure to the clear and inspiriting direction of the Conductor. Band and organist contributed their share to the magnificence of the performance.

The Bristol Æolian Male Choir, a comparatively new body, formed in Bristol in the East division of the city, where there is need for many more musical societies of this order, gave its second Concert, on the 3rd ult, with surprising and delighting results. The performance, which took place at the Vestry Hall, Pennywell Road, in the midst of a populous district, was attended by the The Bristol Post Office Band Concert, which good place Mayor and a crowded audience. Directed by Mr. Geo. A. Sleigh, the choir sang the glees "Hart and Hind" (Bishop), "Who comes" (Callcott), "By Celia's Arbour" (Horsley), "The Martyrs of the Arena" (De Rille), "Blest is the fairy hour" (Horsley), "Hail, Music" (Beschnitt), "Crabbed age and youth" (Stevens), "The Beleaguered" (Sullivan), "Vineta" (Abt), "Past is the race of Heroes"

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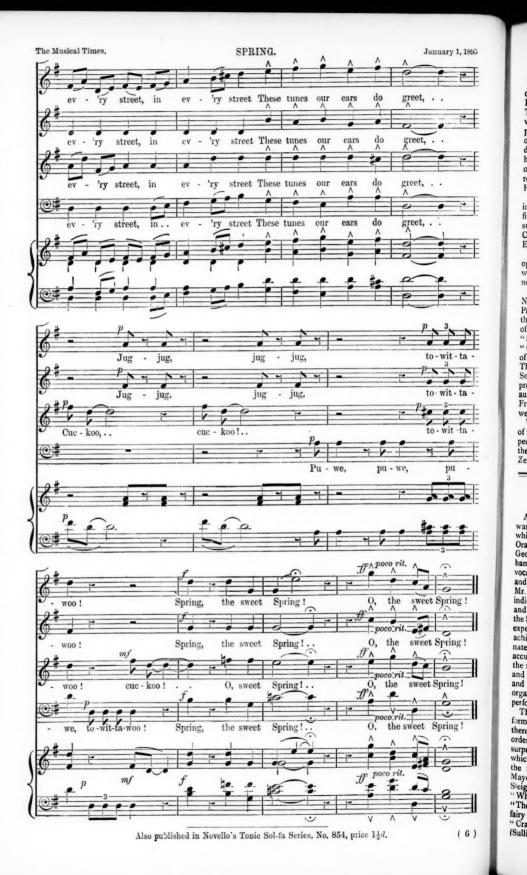
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adequately supported; hence it is feared they will be allowed to lapse. Perhaps when the large and costly building scheme is completed a fresh attempt will be made to secure proper appreciation of music so choice and so excellently rendered.

MUSIC IN DUBLIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Dublin Musical Society led off its nineteenth season with an admirable performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," followed by Mackenzie's "Dream of Jubal, first performance in Dublin. The Concert took place in the Royal University Examination Hall, on the 6th ult., and was largely attended. A most gratifying fact is the steady improvement of the Society's band during the last two or three years. Its discipline is now nearly perfect, and anything like "independent" or careless playing was conspicuously absent from this most satisfactory rendering of Mendelssohn's Symphony and the Cantata. Of the choir of 350 voices it need only be said that it never sang better. The principal singers were Mdlle. Antoinette Trebelli, Mr. Herbert Grover, and Mr. John Horan, jun.; and the recita-tion in Mackenzie's work was undertaken by the Rev. Chancellor Tisdall, D.D. Dr. Joseph Smith conducted, Mr. Theodore Werner led the strings, and Mr. Horan, sen., was organist.

An extra Christmas performance of "The Messiah" was given by the same Society on the 20th ult., with Madame Clara Samuell, Miss Helen Pettican, Mr. Dan Jones, and

Mr. Bantock Pierpoint as soloists.

It is proposed to give some Orchestral or Symphony Concerts next year, with the band of the Dublin Musical Society, whose capability for such work is no longer to be doubted.

St. George's Choral Union, a well-organised and indus-trious Society in the North of Dublin, opened its sixth season, on the 14th ult., with a capital performance of Haydn's "Creation," in St. George's Parochial Hall, under the direction of Mr. Raymond Revelle, with band and chorus of seventy performers. The principals were Miss Mary Conway, Mr. Evan Cox, and Mr. J. G. Scott; the band was led by Mr. R. C. Fleming, and Mr. Lurring presided at the

On the same evening the Sackville Musical Society produced Barnby's "Rebekah," at the Sackville Hall, under the direction of Dr. T. R. G. Jozé, the soloists being Miss Lucy Ashton Hackett, Messrs. W. S. North and J. F.

Dr. W. H. Collisson alternates Subscription and Promenade Concerts at the Leinster Hall on Saturday evenings, all of which are thoroughly enjoyed by large

assemblages.

Two "Sullivan" Concerts, with orchestra, were given in the Town Hall, Kingston, on the 4th and 5th ult., both concluding with the operetta "Trial by Jury" (by permission), in which Miss Barbara Byrne and Mr. Alfred Manning took the leading parts. Dr. Joseph Smith conducted.

The series of Chamber Music Recitals continues to be

held in the old library of the Royal Dublin Society, on Monday afternoons, before crowded assemblages. Messrs. Papini, Delany, Grisard, Bast, and Esposito are the

executants.

Herr Werner's fourth Violin Recital took place at the Arts Club, St. Stephen's Green, on the 4th ult., and included Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Nardini's Sonata in D, and excerpts from Vieuxtemps, Raff, Sarasate, and Ysaye. It is said that a Concerto by a local composer will shortly be heard at one of these popular Recitals. Miss Helen Croft's Benefit Concert, on the 8th ult., at the Antient Concert Rooms, was in very good taste and proved very enjoyable; and on the same evening the second of the Caledonian Society's very successful Concerts was given at the Rotunda.

Lady Arthur Hill's opera "The Ferry Girl" was produced at the Gaiety Theatre, on the 17th ult., running for three nights. A capable band and chorus supported the principals, Miss Kate Drew, Messrs. Chas. Butler, and Frederick Flint; and a crowded audience enjoyed the many beauties of the work, which is of a light and graceful character. Mr. Negroni directed, and Mr. Johnson led the band.

The arrangements for the tenth Annual Conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, to be held in Dublin on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th inst., include addresses by Sir John Stainer, Dr. Mann, and Dr. Pearce, &c., a Concert by the members, a Reception and Conversazione by the Leinster Section, a Banquet at the Shelbourne Hotel, a visit to Guinness's Brewery, and a ball at the Mansion House, by invitation of the Lady Mayoress.

MUSIC IN DUNDEE. (From our own Correspondent.)

THE Dundee Amateur Choral Union (instituted 1858) gave the first Concert of the present season on the 11th ult., under the conductorship of Mr. Carl Hamilton. The work chosen was Mendelssohn's "Elijah," with full work chosen was Mendelssohn's "Elijah," with full orchestral accompaniment, and Miss Maggie Davies, Madame Marian McKenzie, Mr. Henry Piercy, and Mr. Andrew Black as soloists. The choral numbers were excellently sung. A lack of delicacy was noticeable in the softer passages, but a great advance has been made in quality of tone and precision of attack. This will be remembered as one of the finest Concerts given by the Society. Surely nothing could be better than Mr. Black's remembered as one of the finest Concerts given by the Society. Surely nothing could be better than Mr. Black's interpretation of the part of Elijah. He sang throughout with remarkable breadth and dramatic force. Miss Davies and Madame McKenzie also sang with great success, and the accompaniments were efficiently played under the leadership of Mr. Daly.

The second Harrison-Simpson Subscription Concert was held on the 6th ult., and brought two old favourites, Mr. Santley and Herr David Popper, again to Dundee. The other artists were Miss Evangeline Florence, who sang, as always, with much refinement and artistic charm; Madame Belle Cole, Mr. Charles Chilley, and Mdlle. Marie Dubois. The Royal Welsh Ladies' Choir sang light part

songs with considerable skill.

Most important among purely local musical events were the interesting Chamber Concert given on November 27, by Mr. Fleming (pianist), assisted by Mr. Elkan Kosman (violinist) and Mrs. Haden (vocalist); and a Lecture on Wagner's "Tannhäuser," by Mr. S. Fraser Harris, on the 15th ult., at a meeting of the East of Scotland Section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

MUSIC IN EAST ANGLIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ONE of the most useful Institutions in Norwich is St. George's Club and Home for Working Girls, and an interesting part of its work consists of vocal and instrumental classes, under the direction of Mr. H. F. Howlett. Once a year the classes combine to give an exhibition of their progress, with the further object of providing funds for carrying The Concert given in St. Andrew's Hall, on November 27, by the girls, was so much appreciated that it was repeated in the following week, when the building was again well filled. The class from which the executants are drawn having but little time for practice, it will be understood that the music undertaken is of a popular character; but what is tried is creditably performed. In addition to selections for band and chorus, the programme contained violin, flute, cornet, euphonium, and mandoline solos, played in a style that those in higher ranks of life, and with more leisure, would do well to emulate. This club is doing an important elevating work among the class for whom it is intended. The certificates and diplomas gained at the local examination held in October last, in connection with the Victoria College of Music, were presented to the successful candidates on November 30, at a Soirée Musicale given by the local Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ernest Harcourt. Parochial Concerts in various parts of the city have been very prolific during the past month, and it is satisfactory to report that the music given has been generally of a higher level than usual on these occasions. For the more immediate purpose of keeping the chorus in practice, as well as to interest them in their work, the Festival Committee decided to organise four interim Concerts, to be given between the last and next triennial Festival. The first of these was held in May last, when the "Creation" was given; while at

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ult., the pr "The Cra on Nation The Bed the second, held in St. Andrew's Hall, on the 13th ult., Benedict's cantata "St. Cecilia" and a selection from Handel's "L'Allegro ed II Pensieroso" filled the programme. The principal vocalists engaged were Miss Esther Palliser (soprano), Miss Frances Acton (contralto), Mr. H. Stockwell (tenor), and Mr. Ffrangçon-Davies (bass), and it was generally admitted that the committee had been fortunate in their selection of soloists, whose singing throughout the evening was most praiseworthy.

Miss Palliser's grand effort was "Sweet Bird," from
"L'Allegro," the flute obbligato being played by Mr. G. The chorus amply sustained the reputation gained at the last triennial gathering; the voices are evenly balanced, and from the body of tone produced it may be balanced, and from the body of tone produced it may be supposed that the members all sing, and that the cyphers who formerly filled a gap are effectually cleared out. The joyous chorus, "Haste thee, nymph," was honoured with a unanimous encore. The band was composed mainly of members of the Norwich Philharmonic Society, led by Mr. F. W. B. Noverre, but strengthened in the wind by a few outsiders. With the exception of being somewhat too loud in places the accompaniments were very neatly played, and the lovely prelude to "St. Cecilia" was given with great delicacy. Dr. Bunnett presided at the organ with his accustomed ability, and Dr. Horace Hill, to whom the credit of raising the chorus to its present high standard is mainly due, conducted.

The Great Yarmouth Musical Society's first Concert of the season came off on November 29, when Mendels-

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interest ided to een the as held while at of the season came off on November 29, when Mendels-sohn's Forty-second Psalm and Van Bree's cantata "St. Cecilia's Day" were the principal attractions. The band and chorus numbered about 130, with two or three exceptions resident in the town. Under the bâton of Dr. Bunnett, who was temporarily filling the post vacated by Mr. H. Stonex from ill-health, a very creditable performance of these two works was given, both chorus and band being proficient in their respective parts. The solos in both works were sung by Miss Vinnie Beaumont with taste and judgment, but the secular work was more suited to her style than the sacred. Vocal selections were also given by Mr. Sawford Dye, and Mr. R. Price was heard in two violoncello solos as well as in Mendelssohn's Sonata in B flat, with Dr. Bunnett at the pianoforte. Méhul's Overture "Joseph" and an Andante Religioso, for violin and orchestra, written by the Conductor, gave the band an opportunity for showing its ability to do even more exacting work.

The King's Lynn Musical Society gave its first Concert of the season before a large audience, in the Athenaeum, on the 14th ult., when Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was undertaken and performed in a very creditable manner. Perhaps a lower ambition would have been wiser, for "Elijah" is a severe tax upon larger and more experienced choral bodies than Lynn at present possesses; but all honour is due to the Conductor, Mr. Arthur H. Cross, organist of Sandring-ham, for the success obtained. The vocal quartet com-prised Mrs. Stott, Mrs. Barber, Mr. Harry Greene, and Mr. John Sandbrook, who gave the important solos with commendable care and taste. The chorus, numbering upward of 100 voices, showed evidence of careful training and were especially happy in "Thanks be to God," "Be not afraid," and "Behold, God the Lord passed by"; but the "Baal" choruses were not quite so successful. Lynn appears to be weak in instrumental talent, for the band of forty performers was gathered from various places far and near. However, under the leadership of Mr. Noverre, of Norwich, this body proved capable of giving a very fair account of Mendelssohn's orchestration, even at the extreme pace adopted by the Conductor in several numbers.

At the Bury St. Edmund's Choral Association's Concert, on the 13th ult., a meritorious performance of Barnett's "Ancient Mariner" was given, conducted by Mr. Owen A. Clark. The band and chorus numbered about 150 performers, and the principal vocalists were Madame Adeline Paget, Miss Nellie Richardson, Mr. Harry Stubbs, and Mr. Alfred Osmond.

At the Lowestoft Choral Societies' Concert, on the 18th ult, the principal choral works were Dr. Bridge's cantata "The Cradle of Christ" and Dr. Vincent's Choral Fantasia on National Airs. Mr. R. J. Pitcher conducted.

The Reaches Choral Society, which since the departure

of Mr. Williamson, has been under the superintendence of Mr. W. W. Harvey, gave a capital performance of "Judas Maccabæus," on the 17th ult.

MUSIC IN EDINBURGH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Unabated interest and energy is shown in the musical record of last month's engagements. This is, perhaps, the very busiest season Edinburgh has ever known, and the more exacting standard of public criticism is a feature of the greatest possible satisfaction to every lover of music in the Northern capital.

The most important factor in our musical life is still Mr. Henschel's Orchestra. On the 5th ult, interest was centred in Dvorák's new and particularly charming Symphony, "From the New World." The work received every justice from the artists under Mr. Henschel's bâton, every justice from the artists under Mr. Henschel's oaton, and evoked great enthusiasm. The deeper meaning of Schumann's "Manfred" Overture was not so readily grasped, but it was very beautifully played. Miss Clara Butt, in "Che farò," "Caro mio ben," and Gounod's Butt, in "One taro," "Caro into ben, and Gound's famous aria from "Sapho," was warmly received. At the fifth Concert of the series, on the 17th ult., two new works were performed, a more detailed notice of which must be held over until the issue of our next number. The rendering of Mr. Drysdale's music to the "Kelpie," by Miss Joran, M. Brozel, and Mr. Kirkhope's Choir, by Miss Joran, M. Brozel, and Mr. Kirkhope's Choir, under the composer's bâton, was all that could be desired. No less justice was done to Mr. W. Augustus Barratt's Ballad, "Sir Patrick Spens," and when Mr. Kirkhope resumed command of his choir in Goring Thomas's "Sun Worshippers," it was evident that new works and strange conductors had not interfered with the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the livelight amount to the study of old favourities or the study of old favou study of old favourites or the liveliest sympathy with every demand of the popular Conductor's beat. The young composers received quite an ovation.

On the 10th ult. a crowded audience was drawn to the The soloists were Miss Davies, Mr. Piercy, and Mr. Andrew Black. Mr. Piercy sang with abundant expression, although he took a good deal of liberty with the tradition of precise old "Papa Haydn," to the discomfiture of the orchestra. That Mr. Andrew Black did himself justice is to say enough of his part; he was most enthusiastically applauded. But the most important element in the Concert to a candid But the most important element in the Concert to a candid observer was, of course, the chorus, and it must be admitted that the steady improvement of the last few years under Mr. Collisson is well maintained. "The Heavens are telling" was sung with great attention to nuance, although the conception was a little wanting in breadth and spontaneity; but "Achieved is the glorious work" was magnificently rendered. An almost adequate orchestra gave much more evidence of rehearsal than is the unhappy tradition of such Concerts in Edinburgh. tradition of such Concerts in Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Amateur Orchestral Society surpassed all its previous efforts in a somewhat ambitious programme at its first Concert this season. In Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, German's "Henry VIII." music, and the "Merry Wives of Windsor" Overture, Mr. Carl Hamilton had every reason to be proud of the strides the Society has made of late. A local quartet of male singers won great applause from the large audience.

It is no unfamiliar fact that a prodigy commands more public attention than a mature artist can hope for; but too many concert frequenters were absent from one of the most important Concerts of the season, when Josef Hofmann gave a Recital embracing works from Bach to Liszt. This is no place to estimate Hofmann's powers, or to compare him and his interpretations with impressions left by older favourites; but so much may be said, that if he expands in other directions as he has already done to the

expands in other directions as he has already done to the deline Paget, Miss Nellie Richardson, Mr. Harry Stubbs, and Mr. Alfred Osmond.

At the Lowestoft Choral Societies' Concert, on the 18th lt., the principal choral works were Dr. Bridge's cantata The Cradle of Christ' and Dr. Vincent's Choral Fantasia The Cradle of Christ' and Dr. Vincent's Choral Fantasia The Beccles Choral Society, which, since the departure Torre is well known as one of the very best of our local

pianists, and his selection of solos-"Faschingsschwank," and a Prelude, Nocturne, and Ballade by Chopin—was warmly applauded. Mr. Lemonné's beautiful style seemed

to give the liveliest satisfaction.

The programmes at the meetings of the Edinburgh Society of Musicians this year have been of exceptional interest. The Lecture last month was delivered by Mr. Seligmann, President of the Glasgow Society of Musicians, who entertained his audience with anecdotes selected from nearly fifty years' experience of music in Scotland. Important contributions to the programmes have been

Nonettes by Spohr and Rheinberger, Spohr's Septet, &c. Professor Niecks is giving a series of six Historical Concerts-five of String Quartet music and one of Choral music-in the University Music Class Room. The first was given on November 14, and included Quartet in B flat major (Op. 1, No. 1), Haydn; Quartet in C major (Op. 33, No. 3), Haydn; Quartet in C major, Mozart; Quartet in D minor (Op. 76, No. 2), Haydn. The second Concert, on the 12th ult., included Quartet in C major (Op. 76, No. 3, W. The Engager). "The Emperor"), Haydn; Quartet in F major, Mozart; Quartet in C minor (Op. 18, No. 4), Beethoven. The remaining Concerts, the programmes of which are of great interest, will be given on the 16th inst., February 13 and 27. and March 20. The performers were Professor Niecks and Mr. J. F. Guyer (violins), Mr. Colin McKenzie (viola), and Mr. Grant T. McNeill (violoncello). This quartet is an established institution, and not a party gathered together for a few Concerts.

MUSIC IN GLASGOW. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ORCHESTRAL music in Glasgow has surely fallen upon evil times-an observation which may seem somewhat strange to many folks outside our good city. A hard fact remains, however, to be reckoned with, and this is the meagre support accorded the Concerts of the Choral and Orchestral Union. It was confidently expected that with the cessation of last season's hostilities the musical public would have lent substantial aid to the joint scheme. Not so, however, and especially as regards the subscriptions to the higherpriced seats, which ought, of course, to form the backbone of the organisation. Unless, indeed, the attendances improve very considerably, all interested in the financial success of the scheme will again have to face a serious deficit. This would be a grave misfortune, and it is not difficult to forecast a highly probable result. Let us hope, however, that matters will mend, and that Mr. Henschel and his able body of instrumentalists may also be encouraged to maintain the high efficiency which has hitherto charac-terised their labours. Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was produced on the 4th ult, when there should not have been a vacant seat in St. Andrew's Hall. Seldom has the Choral Union sung so well—many of the choruses would, indeed, have done credit to an English Festival choir; the band was in first-rate order, and Mr. Andrew Black's exposition of the part of the Prophet was simply superb. The other soloists, Miss Esther Palliser, Madame Marian McKenzie, and Mr. James Leyland (who deputised for Mr. E. Houghton), also worthily filled their respective rôles, and the trio and other concerted numbers were happily cared for by members of the Union, over which Mr. Joseph Bradley, the popular Conductor, so acceptably presides. Miss Palliser again made a highly favourable impression at the Popular Concert on the 8th ult., when Mr. Emanuel Moor also appeared, in charge of his own Pianoforte Concerto, a work which has been heard before under—truth to tell—better auspices. Humper-dinck's Prelude to "Hänsel und Gretel" ushered in the sixth Classical Concert, on the evening of the 11th ult. can only be said that the Overture whets the appetite for an acquaintance with the "Legend in Three Pictures" in its entirety. Brahms's Pianoforte Concerto in D minor (Op. 15) served to again bring Mr. Leonard Borwick before a Glasgow audience. The experience was truly welcome. It is safe enough to say that Beethoven's C minor Symphony has rarely been heard in Glasgow under better conditions, and Mr. Henschel and his bandsmen deserve to be felicitated on their performance of the evergreen work. That rising young operatic vocalist, Miss Pauline Joran, sang at the mental work. Lady Hallé gave on this occasion a

Popular Concert on the 15th ult., when the programme included Dvorák's new Symphony (No. 5) in E minor, as also one or two pieces of a familiar and thoroughly acceptable type. The seventh Classical Concert was announced for the afternoon of Christmas Day, and with Mr. and Mrs. Henschel as the vocalists. Leading features in the programme included Berlioz's "Harold in Italy" Symphony, Beethoven's "King Stephen" Overture, and "Saul's Dream," a number from Dr. Parry's work that Mr. Henschel has made his own. The second Chamber Constant of the Stephen o cert of the series was set down for the 27th ult., and amateurs had been looking forward to a delightful evening with Haydn, Beethoven, and Schubert.

Young Hofmann came and conquered on the 13th ult., as was quite apparent from the reception accorded him at the Queen's Rooms. Keen interest centres in the forthcoming banquet to Mr. August Manns, a function which promises to rank as a red-letter record in Glasgow musical annals. Than the popular Sydenham chêf no man has done more for the musical art North of the Tweed. The banquet, it may be of interest to note, will be graced by

the presence of ladies.

MUSIC IN LIVERPOOL. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTMASTIDE does not seem this year to have brought with it the average number of Concerts, and of what have been given there is but little to be said, as nearly everything placed before music-lovers has been of the well-worn order. Be it understood that this applies to those departures in the way of choral music which are looked for at a period when local societies usually give evidence of the work done in the first moiety of a winter session. Liverpool is, in fact, as has been before noted, hopelessly behind in regard to matters which appertain to the singing side of the musician's art. The Philharmonic Society gave, on the 18th ult., Handel's "Judas Maccabæus," under Sir Charles Hallé"; on the 13th ult., Spohr's "Last Judgment" was rendered at the pro-Cathedral, according to long-established custom, under the direction of Mr. F. H. Burstall. At this performance was also given Dr. J. F. Bridge's "Cradle of Christ," the only new thing heard, except Dr. Parry's "Job," so far this season, and it proved, therefore, doubly acceptable. The Post Office Choral Society appears to have abandoned the higher walks of art, and contented itself, on the 5th ult., with half-a-dozen part-songs, very well sung, under Mr. Clarke and a company of star vocalists.

In Birkenhead, Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Handel's "Messiah" have been given by the choir of the Young Men's Christian Association, under Mr. Thomas; the lastnamed oratorio also by the Cambrian Choral Society, under Mr. D. O. Parry; and Dr. C. H. Parry's "Judith" by the St. Cecilia Society, under Mr. J. M. Appleyard. At Rock Ferry, Mr. Pemberton's Society has performed Gounod's "St.

Cecilia" Mass.

At Liscard, a rapidly growing Cheshire suburb, Dvorák's fine cantata "The Spectre's Bride" was given on the 17th ult., under Mr. Argent, and carried forward the very happy traditions of the Wallasey Musical Society in regard to the production of new or comparatively unfamiliar works. At Runcorn, Mendelssohn's "First unfamiliar works. At Runcorn, Mendelssohn's "First Walpurgis Night" was given on the same evening, under

Mr. Crossley.

On the other hand, orchestral music still proves a sort of fixed star in the local firmament. The Società Armonica has given Schubert's C major Symphony—an ambitious work, by the way, for Mr. W. Cafferata's forces; and the famous Orchestral Society under Mr. Rodewald has produced, at the first of the now regular "Ladies" Concerts, Beethoven's A major Symphony and other important works, with the usual excellent results. At the Music School—where, it may be noted, Dr. H. Hiles succeeds the late Dr. W. H. Hunt as chief harmony professor some good orchestral music was played by the students on the 13th ult., under Mr. Courvoisier; and last, though not least, the Philharmonic Society devoted the programme of

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Santley; training (Fogg at Among during th on the I delightful rendering of Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and the novelty was an excerpt from Saint-Saëns's "Suite Algerienne." Schumann's "Manfred" Overture and Moszkowski's "Cortège Marche" were also included in an excellent programme of the miscellaneous order.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, held here on the 15th ult., some excellent music was rendered by the members; and Mr. Charles Fry, who was fulfilling another engagement in Liverpool at the time, introduced an acceptable novelty in the form of one of the recitations with Mr. Stanley Hawley's music. Poe's "The Bells" was the piece selected, and it met with most cordial recognition. Dr. Hiles, of Manchester, and Miss Vickers, of Liverpool, presided over a large and most agreeable meeting of members.

Organ Recitals were given in St. George's Hall by Mr. J. K. Strachan, of Glasgow, on Saturday afternoon and evening, the 15th ult., and Sunday afternoon, the 16th ult. There was a large and enthusiastic audience at each

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MUSIC IN MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE programme provided by Sir Charles Hallé for November 29 was specially interesting, including, as it did, the Symphonie Fantastique of Berlioz-which was given for the seventh time—a first performance of Dvorák's "Carneval" Overture, two movements from Beethoven's "Prometheus" music, and vocal selections by Miss Brema, n which (and particularly in the old Irish airs, scored by Professor Stanford) she displayed great dramatic power and sympathy. Of the first-named work nothing new and sympathy. Of the first-named work nothing new could be said. The old impression remains that, while there are, here and there, some extremely charming passages, rendered particularly welcome by the relief they afford, the chief interest to the student arises from the many experiments in scoring by the boldest of modern orchestrators. The Overture was well played, and its descriptive variety brightly brought out. No doubt it will soon be repeated; and an opportunity offered to follow more quietly and calmly its details. Should the "Prometheus" selection be again presented, it would be well to avoid the repetitions marked in the score which, especially in the florid variations, become excessively wearisome. In the early days of concerted instrumental music a desirable length of movement was secured often only by the encore of each section; but, as constructive ower increased, the necessity for such elongation ceased. power increased, the necessity for such that the performance in consecutive years of selections from Wagner's "Tannhäuser" and "Lohengrin" calls for no remark beyond the record that, while the singing of Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Black was worthy of the renown of these artists, the familiarity of the choir and the orchestra with the works secured an excellent interpretation. For the Concert of the 13th ult. Mons. Rivarde selected the Violin Concerto in B minor of Saint-Saëns, of which the Andantino has a delightful simplicity and continuity not found in the quicker movements; and in the Airs Russes of Wieniawski he revelled in the "harmonic" regions, where he seems to be specially at home. He was thrice recalled. Mdlle. Landi, in the air "Oh! del mio dolce ardor," from Gluck's "Paris et Hélène," proved the charming quality of her voice when its tones are freed from the vibrato so affected by vocalists incapable are freed from the nibrato so affected by vocalists incapable of sustaining a steady, equable, well-tuned note, or always simulating an absurdly hysteric passion. The movement "Vysehrad," from a Poème Symphonique of Smetana, has little beyond well-defined rhythmic swing and clear orchestration to commend it. Of the two annual performances of "The Messiah," on the 20th and 21st ult., nothing need be said except that the principals were Misses Anna Williams and Clara Butt, with Messrs. Lloyd and Santley; and that the choral effects testified the energetic training of Mr. R. H. Wilson, while the assistance of Mr. Fogg at the organ was judicious and valuable.

sonority of tone and mastery of the executive difficulties. Of course Madame Clara Samuell, Mr. Piercy, and Mr. Black need no commendation.

The Harrison Concert of the 11th ult, was unexpectedly successful as regards attendance; and, in spite of the indis position of Mr. Lloyd, and the fact that one or two of the vocalists are fairly entitled to retire after their long and faithful service to the public, elicited great enthusiasm. Mr. Santley obligingly gave extra songs to preserve the desirable length of the programme, and was in capital voice. The Royal Welsh Ladies' Choir sang some eccentrically arranged national airs, and the spirit of their rendering, combined with the novelty of the conducting of Madame Clara Novello Davis, commended their efforts to a large portion of the audience.

At the Concert Hall some excellent chamber music has, during the month, been enjoyed. On the 3rd ult. the Gentlemen's Society provided a well-selected programme, undertaken by the chief soloists of Sir Charles Hallé's orchestra, with the co-operation of Mr. Steudner-Welsing at the pianoforte. The Pianoforte and Vocal Recital, at at the pianoforte. The Pianoforte and Vocal Recital, at the Free Trade Hall, of Messrs. Borwick and Plunket Greene was unfortunately fixed for the same night, and the needless interference of the two appeals detracted

from the success of both.

On the 10th ult. Mr. Willy Hess drew together his friends for the second time this season, and sufficiently rewarded them if only by his masterly playing of Bach's G minor Fugue. But, in addition, they had Schubert's Octet (Op. 166) and a delightful Scherzo from Cherubini's E flat (No. 1) Quartet. Finely as the Octet was rendered, the feeling was unavoidable that "heavenly length" is unsuitable for this bustling, transitory life; and that strings contend with wind instruments unequally, unless when fairly proportioned, as in the orchestra.

An excellent entertainment by Mr. Henry Watson's Vocal Society, and the Organ Recitals of Mr. Kendrick Pyne, at the Town Hall, must be recorded, together with the regular Saturday evening gatherings at the Young Men's Christian Association, conducted by Mr. Cross.

By a very happy chance I happened to be in Derby on the evening of the 5th ult., and was lured to the Concert of the Orpheus and Madrigal Society established by Mr. Arthur Smith. The choir numbers about sixty voices; and so rarely are opportunities offered of listening to anything like perfect male part-singing, that I congratulate myself upon the accident which took me into the hall that evening. The parts were well balanced, the voices good and free from the roughness which often seriously detracts The parts were well balanced, the voices good from the efforts of such choirs, and the Conductor's control of his force absolute.

MUSIC IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

UNUSUAL activity has been shown among the choral and orchestral organisations of this district during the month. Fenton Town Hall was packed on November 29, when the Longton and Fenton Orchestral Society, under the direction of Mr. Frank Hughes, gave its first Concert. Aided by Miss Nellie Gosnell (vocalist) and Mr. Fred. Ward (violin) an excellent programme was presented, and the orchestra can be congratulated upon the success of its initial effort. its initial effort.

Sir Smith Child, with his usual generosity, assisted the energetic Society bearing his own name in providing high class music for the people of Tunstall for the fourth season. Mr. James Alcock conducted, and the chorus (numbering over 100 voices) rendered Haydn's "Spring" and gave evidence of much careful training. The principals were Miss L. Lonsdale (of Tunstall), Mr. Hamlet Hopkins, and Mr. Meir. A miscellaneous selection followed the cantata, and the whole Concert was thoroughly appreciated by the large audience. The Rev. P. Stowers presided at the pianoforte.

The annual "Messiah" Festival of the Hanley Glee and Among many other performances of "The Messiah" Madrigal Society took place at the Victoria Hall, on the during the month, that of Mr. Lane's Philharmonic Choir, 13th ult., before an enthusiastic audience. The announce-Madrigal Society took place at the Victoria Hall, on the on the 15th ult., must be specified as evincing increased ment that Mr. Edward Lloyd would be unable to fulfil his

engagement caused genuine disappointment among local music-lovers, but at the eleventh hour Mr. Ben Davies being secured, the exacting part was adequately provided for. Miss Florence Monk, Madame Dews, and Mr. John Ridding completed the list of principals, and the choir did its duty admirably. Mr. James Garner, the founder and painstaking Conductor, was in splendid form, and to him in a great degree the success of the evening may be justly attributed.

Mr. Sydney Clifford's Company gave a very successful Operatic Concert on the 13th ult., in the Longton Town

Hall.

On the 20th ult. the Longton Choral Society performed Haydn's "Creation," with Madame Laura Smart, Mr. F. Barlow, and Mr. F. Owens as principals, and Mr. E. H. Bloor as Conductor.

MUSIC IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM. (From our own Correspondent.)

THE Concert of the Gateshead Choral Society, on November 26, was in every respect a great success; but if one feature was worthy of greater praise than another, it was the singing of the choir. The Concert was given in the Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and there was a very large and enthusiastic audience. It is certain that no better part-singing has been heard in this locality for many years. The principal pieces in the programme were Meyerbeer's Ninety-first Psalm, in eight parts, which was sung unaccompanied; Mozart's motet, "Splendente Te, Deus," and Pearsall's "Sir Patrick Spens." The pro-Deus," and Pearsall's "Sir Patrick Spens." The programme also included part-songs and madrigals, by Orlando di Lassus, Dr. C. Villiers Stanford, and Henry Smart, all of which were admirably sung. The following artists also appeared: Madame Clara Samuell, Miss Jeanie Rankin, Mr. Henry Piercy, Mr. Ffrangçon-Davies, Mr. Philip Cathie (violin), and Mr. Clement Locknane (pianoforte). Mr. C. Francis Lloyd conducted, at almost more programs of the sudden indisposition of a moment's notice, owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr. James M. Preston, the esteemed Conductor of the Society. The next Concert of the Society will take place on February 26, when Sullivan's "Golden Legend" will be given.

Miss Maud May's Concert, on November 28, was very successful. Dvorák's Quintet (Op. 81) for pianoforte and strings was exceedingly well played by Miss May (pianoforte), Miss Donkersley (first violin), Miss Winifred Foster (second violin), Mr. Emil Kreuz (viola), and Mr. W. H. Squire (violoncello). The vocalist was Miss Clara Butt, who delighted all hearers. It is worthy of remark that all the artists were formerly students of the Royal College of

The visit of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company to the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, which extended over the week commencing the 3rd ult., was neither so interesting nor so successful as usual. The principal event of the visit was the performance, for the first time in Newcastle, of Mr. Hamish MacCunn's new opera "Jeanie Deans," which was fully noticed in the last issue of THE MUSICAL The work was presented in excellent style, both as to the manner of its performance and staging. The other operas heard during the week were "Tannhäuser," "Daughter of the Regiment," "At Santa Lucia," "Bohemian Girl," Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor," and Goring Thomas's "Esmeralda."

The Northern Musicians' Benevolent Society gave its annual Concert in Newcastle, on the 10th ult. This Society was formed some four years ago for the purpose of providing a fund for the assistance of local musicians in time of sickness or distress. Once a year the members combine to give an orchestral Concert in aid of the funds, and so far their efforts have been remarkably successful. orchestra at the recent Concert consisted of ninety performers, and among the most successful of the works performed were Dr. Mackenzie's new Overture "Britannia," a movement from a Suite in F by C. Francis Lloyd, Weber's Concertstücke for pianoforte and orchestra (the solo being admirably played by Mr. J. M. Preston), and issue.

the "Tannhäuser" Overture. The vocalist was Miss Clara Butt, who created the utmost enthusiasm by her singing; and Mr. J. H. Beers conducted.

The Chamber Music Society gave its second Concert of the season on the 12th ult. The instrumentalists were Messrs. Schiever, Akeroyd, Courvoisier, and Carl Fuchs, and the vocalist Mr. Plunket Greene, with Mr. J. M. Preston as accompanist. The most enjoyable piece on the programme was Schumann's String Quartet in A, which was delightfully played. The songs of Mr. Plunket

Greene were also very greatly appreciated.
On the 17th ult. Mr. Josef Hofmann gave a Pianoforte Recital in Newcastle. His programme was drawn from Bach, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schubert, Liszt, and Rubinstein, and also included some Variations of his own

composition.

The Newcastle Harmonic Society, of which Dr. Charles Chambers is the Conductor, have decided definitely to give a performance of Dr. Joseph Parry's "Saul of Tarsus" at an early date. Dr. Parry has promised to come to Newcastle for the purpose of conducting his work.

MUSIC IN NOTTINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Mansfield Harmonic Society is thriving under the conductorship of Mr. Marshall-Ward. Its performance of Spöhr's "Last Judgment," on November 27, was an excellent example of good results achieved with small resources. The principal vocalists were Miss Maggie Jaques, Mr. Hamlyn Crimp, and Mr. Walter Ford, the latter, a rising young local basso, achieving a marked success.

Mr. Josef Hofmann gave an interesting Pianoforte Recital in the Albert Hall, on November 27, and displayed his versatile talents in a programme including diverse styles, from Eugene d'Albert's transcription of Bach's Organ Fugue in D major to Chopin, Rubinstein,

and Liszt.

At the first Drawing-Room Concert Mr. Leonard Borwick and Mr. Plunket Greene gave a Pianoforte and

Vocal Recital, which was highly appreciated.

The West Bridgford Choral Society and its Conductor, Mr. Derbyshire, deserve praise for their excellent "St. John's Eve." The solos were well sung by Miss Maggie Jaques, Miss Alice Thorpe, and Messrs. Carson and Frank Kirk. The selection of this work was fortunate and its performance most creditable to all concerned.

Mr. Frank Lambert's Concert, on the 7th ult., was interesting, apart from the local interest evoked by his own compositions, which received deserved applause. The artists were Miss Mary Harris, Miss Marie Stiven, Mr. George Aspinall, Mr. Mervyn Dene, Mr. Maurice Farkoa,

and Mr. Edgar Hulland.

Messrs. Ellenberger and Thorpe included vocal music in the programme of their second Chamber Concert, on the 4th ult., for the first time, and the engagement of Mr. William Foxon, of Sheffield, proved fortunate. The revival of Leclair's quaint Duo Sonata for violin and viola (finely played by Messrs. Ellenberger and Courvoisier) was a delightful surprise. From the remainder of the programme we must select Mr. Thorpe's violoncello solos— Serenade Orientale (Popper) and Marcello's Sonata in F as particularly successful.

The Scottish Orchestra, under Mr. Henschel, is undoubtedly, in size and excellence, the finest combination that has visited Nottingham since Herr Richter's first appearance some years ago. The decided lack of interest evinced in their coming cannot be accounted for, and would surely not be repeated. Their playing of Beethoven's C minor Symphony, the "Tannhäuser" Overture, and Grieg's "Peer Gynt" Suite was a genuine pleasure to hear. Mr. Henschel gave a fine rendering of a scene from Dr. Parry's new Oratorio, "King Saul."

The Sacred Harmonic Society promised a good "Messiah" Concert for the 27th ult., too late for notice in this

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MUSIC IN OXFORD.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Lectures of the Music Faculty contained two extremely interesting discourses during the past term.
On November 2r Dr. J. F. Bridge discussed "Early
English Dramatic Music" with his customary vivacity before a very numerous audience, who showed equal appreciation of the Lecture itself and of the illustrations, appreciation of the Lecture itself and of the illustrations, which were admirably sung by three choristers and Messrs. Fell and Price, of Westminster Abbey. A fortnight later Sir John Stainer himself unfolded the origin and development of the choral responses of the English Church, and by his complete mastery of the subject contrived to impart interest into a rather technical and in some parts antiquarian interest in the based that his reiescape and the state of the st topic. It is to be hoped that his vigorous protest as to the neglect with which Tallis's noble Litany is treated in too many cathedrals will be heeded by those who are responsible

There has only been one of the series of Classical Concerts (October 25), but this was, on the whole, the most satisfactory yet given. An admirably varied programme, comprising Beethoven's "Leonora" (No. 3) Overture, Saint-Säens's Concerto for pianoforte in G minor, and

rure, Saint-Säens's Concerto for pianoforte in G minor, and Schumann's Symphony in B flat major, received a capital rendering under Dr. Lloyd's direction; and Miss Marie Brema, who appeared for the first time in Oxford, made a great impression in two of Wagner's songs.

The other Concerts of the Term must be briefly dismissed, simply because they have been so numerous that anything like detail is quite impossible. The Schiever Quartet played Quartets by Beethoven and Schumann very finely at the Musical Union Invitation Concert, on November 28, and Messrs. Borwick and Plunket Greene. on November 28. and Messrs. Borwick and Plunket Greene, on November 28 and Messrs. Borwick and Plunket Greene, on November 28, and the Meister Glee Singers, on November 3, attracted large audiences. The other performers of most note who have visited Oxford during the autumn were Mdlle. and Master Gérardy and Josef Hofmann. One remarkable innovation requires a word of special recognition. On November 22 Messrs. Acott and Co. arranged to give a complete "Monday Pop" Concert in Oxford, transferring it bodily, so to speak, from London. It is sincerely to be hoped that support enough was accorded to this spirited enterprise to bring about further Concerts of the same sort in the not distant future.

MUSIC IN SHEFFIELD.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Amateur Instrumental Society gave the first Subscription Concert of the season, on the 4th ult., in the Montgomery Hall. Prout's Symphony in F was the chief feature of the programme, and the members of the band accorded it a very excellent performance. The melodious third movement was played con amore, and the elaborate Finale, though severely taying the resources of amoteurs. Finale, though severely taxing the resources of amateurs, was adequately rendered. The programme also included Overtures by Weber and Wallace, and a selection from "La Fille du Regiment," Dr. Coward, who conducted, was cordially greeted on his first public appearance since obtaining honours at Oxford.

During the past month several Ballad Concerts have been given, of which the most interesting was Messrs.

Harrison's second Subscription Concert.

Mr. W. Brown's Popular Concerts in the Albert Hall have been resumed, and on the 8th ult. Mr. Guilmant gave a largely attended Organ Recital. At this Concert Miss Ethel Griffith, a gifted young local violinist, made a successful début.

A new Musical Society has been formed in Doncaster, under the title of the St. Cecilia Society. Mr. Alfred Taylor has been appointed Conductor, and the first work performed will be Cowen's "Sleeping Beauty."

The Conisborough Musical Society performed Barnett's "Ancient Mariner" at its opening Concert. The success of the new Society was unmistakable, Mr. Alfred Taylor

was the Conductor.

Miss Lilian Hovey, who is well known locally as an

programme included a translation of Björnson's tragic poem "Bergliot," with accompanying music by Edvard Grieg. Mr. Charles Fry, of London, who has been directing Miss Hovey's studies, also took part in the programme, and gave, among other pieces, "The Dream of Eugene Aram," with Dr. A. C. Mackenzie's music. Miss Florence Winter was an excellent pianist playing the accompaniments. Winter was an excellent pianist, playing the accompaniments to the recitations referred to with much skill and sympathy.

On the 18th uit. the Amateur Musical Society's winter Concert took place in the Albert Hall. The first part of the programme comprised Beethoven's "Mount of Olives" and Handel's Organ Concerto in F (No. 5). The chorus work in Beethoven's Oratorio, while not severely taxing the resources of the choir, afforded evidence of careful preparation, and all the choral numbers were admirably rendered. The acquisition this season of a number of new tenors has strengthened the Society in what was a weak department, and the choir is now very evenly balanced. Miss Annie Norledge sang the trying soprano music with excellent taste and finish, and Mr. William Foxon's faultless rendering taste and finish, and Mr. William Foxon's faultiless rendering of the tenor music made his return to the concert-platform additionally welcome. Mr. T. H. Watson, a member of the Society, sang the bass solos. After Mr. J. W. Phillips had given a striking performance of the Organ Concerto, Mendelssohn's "Athalie" was given. For this work the services of Mr. Charles Fry had been retained, and so admirably did he deliver the connecting "readings," and so admirably to the andience was this new departure that acceptable to the audience was this new departure, that arrangements will doubtless be made to secure his reappearance in Sheffield, probably in Mackenzie's "Dream of Jubal." In "Athalie" the members of the chorus had their opportunity, and it was made the most of. Their singing throughout was accurate and firm, and the tone was excellent. The principals were Miss Norledge, Miss Amy Carter, Mrs. Davies, and Miss Booker. An excellent band was led by Mr. John Peck; Mr. Phillips was Organist, and Mr. Schöllhammer conducted.

Mr. Josef Hofmann made his first appearance in Sheffield on the 19th ult., when he gave a Pianoforte Recital in the

Albert Hall.

Selections from "The Messiah" have been given during Advent at St. Mary's Church, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Rodgers.

The usual number of "Messiah" performances were

given on Christmas Day.

MUSIC IN WILTS AND HANTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SALISBURY has been well supplied with music during the month just past, though to judge by the extent to which the better class of Concerts have been attended, the supply has not been in excess of the demand. Mr. Plunket Greene and Mr. Leonard Borwick had a large and very Rooms, on Tuesday afternoon, the 4th ult. Madame Antoinette Sterling appeared in the County Hall on the evening of the same day, before another crowded room. She was supported by Miss Blanche Powell, Mr. Trefelyn David, Mr. Alexander Tucker, Miss Louise Nanney (solo

David, Mr. Alexander Tucker, Miss Louise Nanney (solo violin), and Mr. Frank Hollis (pianoforte).

The usual Advent performance of Spohr's "Last Judgment" took place in the Cathedral on Thursday, the 13th ult. The solos were sung by members of the choir, Mr. C. F. South presided at the organ, and an excellent and impressive rendering of the Oratorio was the result. Dr. Hubert Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens" and Mr. Hamish MacCunn's choral ballad "Lord Ullin's Daughter" were the chief works performed by the Sarum Choral Society, at the second Concert of its forty-sixth season, held in the Assembly Rooms, on the 19th ult. The solo vocalists were Miss Hettie Johnson and Mr. F. H. Noyes. Mr. F. L. Bartlett led the orchestra, and Mr. W. T. Bowey conducted.

An interesting musical service took place in the beautiful Parish Church of Wilton, on the 19th ult., when selections from "The Messiah" and "St. Paul" were given by the choir, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Naish, Organist excellent contralto vocalist, made a successful début as a of the Church. A small orchestra supplemented the reciter, in the Montgomery Hall, on the 17th ult. Her organ in the accompaniments, and Mr. Naish gave a

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" Mese in this short Recital on the latter instrument, including Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in D minor and a Larghetto

At Marlborough, the annual College Concert was fixed for the 20th ult., the programme consisting of a well arranged selection of vocal and instrumental music, and concluding, as usual, with the "Carmen Marlburiense."
Mr. W. S. Bainbridge was the Conductor. The Marlborough Choral Society is preparing Mozart's Twelfth Mass and Mr. Gaul's cantata "Una" for the next Concert.

A very successful performance of Handel's "Messiah" was given by the Ryde Choral Union, on the 13th ult, in aid of the funds of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital. The choir of the Society, numbering 120 voices, had been well trained by the Conductor, Miss Margaret Fowles, and sang the choruses admirably. The band was also very good, and the solo vocalists—Miss Kate Cove, Miss Clara Butt, Mr. Clifford Hunnybunn, and Mr. Robert Hilton—everything that could be desired. Unusual interest attached to this Concert, it being the last which Miss Fowles will conduct, that lady having announced her intention of relinquishing the direction of the Society on account of a press of other work.

absence will be keenly felt.

The annual Concert of the Southampton Boys' College and High School at Shaftesbury Hall was one of the most successful ever given by that flourishing institution. most successful ever given by that nourisning institution. The programme, arranged by Mr. E. Christopher Young, included Abt's cantata, "The Wishing Stone," which received an excellent rendering. The choruses were sung by the boys of the College who are in Mr. Young's singing-class, and the solos were given by Miss Gertrude Shearer and Miss May Lance. A miscellaneous selection made up the remainder of the programme. The Southampton Amateur Orchestral Society gave a Concert at the Hartley Hall on the 5th ult. The programme was judiciously compiled with a view to the capabilities of the band, which since its organization has made rapid strides under the careful training of Mr. E. Moon, the Conductor. The vocalist was Miss Marie Hooten, and Mr. Charles Fletcher contributed some finely played violin solos. An Oratorio, "Paradise," was performed by the South Front Choral Society, on the 6th ult., under the conductorship of Mr. F. Merefield. The solo vocalists were Miss Kate McLaughlan, Miss S. Smith, Miss May Lance, Mr. C. French, and Mr. W. Wheeler. The band was led by Mr. J. Merefield, and Mr. Fred. Hallum presided at the organ. The Southampton Philharmonic Society opened the season with a performance of "The Messiah," on the 18th ult. The principal vocalists were Miss Jessie Hudlestone, Miss E. Leslie, Mr. Lloyd Chandos, and Mr. Tom Powley. Mr. H. M. Pike was the Conductor.

MUSIC IN YORKSHIRE:

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LEEDS has been unusually occupied with musical concerns during the past month. Taking a long list of Concerts in chronological order, Miss Eisele gave, on November 28, a pupils' Concert, at which several of her pupils showed commendable skill. At special Advent Services in the Leeds Parish Church, on the 6th and 10th ult., two important choral works were performed, on the former occasion Brahms's "German Requiem" and on the latter Spohr's "Last Judgment." Both were happily chosen with regard to the season, and both were most creditably executed. Though the absence of an orchestra was an irreparable loss, it was minimised by the clever organ playing of Mr. Guilmant. The Parish Church organist, Mr. Alfred Benton, conducted, and the soloists were Miss Bishop, Mr. Tom Child, and Mr. Browning, of whom the last-named must be singled out for particular praise, though all were most efficient. A Choral Contest, promoted by the Leeds Prize Musical Union, took place in the Town Hall, on the 8th ult., and proved thoroughly successful. There were eleven male-voice choirs and seven of mixed voices. Dr. C. H. Lloyd was the judge, and awarded the first prize in the former class to the Nelson Excelsior Glee Union, and in the latter to the Mossley Prizes were secured also by the Harrogate and Bradford Moor Societies of men's voices, and by the Golcar and Reedyford Choirs. The Armley Choral Society, on the 11th ult., gave Gaul's "Joan of Arc," Mr. Harrison conducting, and Miss Emma Wilby, Messrs. Riley and Billington being the principal vocalists. The second of the Leeds Subscription Concerts took place on the 12th ult. Sir Charles Halle's band performed Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, their success being most marked in the vigorous Finale. Mr. Frederick Dawson played Tschaïkowsky's highly original and characteristic Pianoforte Concerto in B flat minor with remarkable brilliancy and ease of execution, and Miss Sarah Berry sang several solos with an ease and charm of style that was as delightful as it was refreshing.

Weber's too-much neglected "Freischütz" was the

subject of the third of the Bradford Subscription Concerts, on the 14th ult., a welcome revival, in view of the exceedingly small chance there seems to be of witnessing a stage performance in this part of the world, though the opera is one that ought to suit the Royal Carl Rosa Company to perfection. The soloists were Mesdames Duma and Amy Sherwin, Messrs. Ben Davies, Andrew Black, Alec Marsh, P. Lincey, and W. Thornton. Sir Charles Hallé conducted his Manchester band, to whom Weber's music is well suited, and the chorus was supplied by the Bradford Festival Choral Society. On November 24 the Bradford Permanent Orchestra gave one of its excellent Concerts, the popularity of which is growing steadily. At the next of the Society's Concerts, on the 8th ult., Mr. N. Kilburn, of Bishop Auckland, well-known in the North of England as one of its ablest amateur conductors, and a musician of exceptional culture, appeared to conduct a well-written Suite, consisting of a Dance, Song, and March, and written especially for the occasion. Musicianly workmanship and knowledge of orchestral effects are the main features of this agreeable work. Madame Bertha Moore was the vocalist. Mr. W. B. Sewell conducted both Concerts.

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At Huddersfield the Subscription Concerts, which have this season shown an upward tendency in an artistic sense-popularly they could hardly be a greater success have been continued by a Conversazione, on the 4th ult., at which the Misses Tulloch were the entertainers, and on the 11th ult. an orchestral programme was supplied by Sir Charles Halle's band, who did full justice to Dvorák's latest Symphony, "From the New World." In Saint-Saëns's G minor Pianoforte Concerto, Miss Eisele, who was the soloist, played conscientiously rather Eisele, who was the soloist, played conscientiously rather than brilliantly. Songs were contributed by Madame Swiatlowski, who showed decided dramatic power in an air from Glinka's "La vie pour le Czar." The Huddersfield Glee and Madrigal Society gave, on November 27, a performance of Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri." The principal soloists were Mrs. Allen Sykes, Miss Battye, Miss Helena Sykes, Messrs. Tom Child and W. Thornton, of whom only the lett reproduce on he said to have achieved. of whom only the last-named can be said to have achieved more than competency. The chorus sang with excellent expression and precision, reflecting much credit upon its trainer and Conductor, Mr. Ibeson. The absence of an orchestra was greatly felt, but in other respects the

The York Musical Society gave, on the 11th ult., a performance of "Samson" that indicated most satisfactorily the decided advance made by the chorus under Dr. Naylor's painstaking teaching. Madame Emily Squire, Miss Jessie King, Messrs. Gawthrop and Duncanson formed an efficient

performance was more than creditable.

quartet of soloists. On November 30 the Wakefield Choral Society performed Barnett's popular (because easily understood) cantata "The Ancient Mariner." Mr. J. N. Hardy conducted, and the principals were Miss de Boufflers, Miss Marie Rhodes, Messrs. Tom Child and W. Thornton.

The Hull Philharmonic Society in its opening Concert of the season, which took place on the 6th ult., showed or the season, which took place on the 6th ult., showed a noble ambition, including Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, Wagner's "Rienzi" and Gade's "Ossian" Overtures in its programme. Among the lighter works a Suite by the Conductor, Mr. J. W. Hudson, must be mentioned as having given much pleasure to the audience. The vocalist was Mrs. Van der Veer-Green. The flourishing Choral Society at Balley whose mentality is the instantiant. Choral Society at Batley, whose popularity is due in great measure to its cautious adherence to the most familiar choral works, gave, on the 11th ult., a Concert at which Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of

Praise" were performed to the complete satisfaction of the audience. Mesdames Annie Marriott and Robertshaw, Messrs. W. Green and W. Thornton were the vocalists, and Mr. John Bowling conducted very ably. The Morley Choral Society, on the 4th ult., gave the "Hymn of Praise" and "Acis and Galatea," under Mr. A. Benton's conductorship, the principals being Miss Ada Lee, Mrs. G. E. Baines, Messrs. W. Green and Ineson. Another Society showing a preference for the safe path of well-worn works is the Cleckheaton Philharmonic Society, which chose for its Concert, on the 5th ult., the "Hymn of Praise" and Rossini's "Stabat Mater." Miss Fanny de Boufflers, Miss Alice Lamb, Messrs. Iver McKay and Billington were the soloists. Mr. W. H. Wright conducted. Bare mention must suffice, too, of the Pudsey Choral Union's "Elijah" performance, on November 24, under Mr. Robertshaw, and of the Brighouse Choral Society's Concert, on November 27, when I Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" again formed the programme. Mr. J. H. of Praise" again formed the programme. Mr. J. H. Pearson was the Conductor. The constant repetition of The Whitby Choral Society, of which Mr. Hallgate has for many years been the Conductor and prime mover gave, on the 4th ult., a Concert, the programme of which combined the first part of "Elijah" with a miscellaneous second half. The soloists were Miss Graves, Mrs. Wellburn Robinson, Messrs. H. Stansfield and Musgrove Tufnail, of whom the last-named seems to have scored the Tufnail, of whom the last-named seems to have scored the most popular success. The charming dances from Mr. German's "Henry VIII." Music, as a Quintet for strings and pianoforte, was, perhaps, the most enjoyable piece in the second part. At Dewsbury, on November 28, Sir Charles and Lady Hallé gave a very enjoyable Recital of music for pianoforte and violin; and on November 29 the Messrs. Haddock gave one of their Musical Evenings at Harrogate. Miss Pauline St. Angelo was the pianist, Mr. Edgar Haddock the violinist, and the vocalists were Madame Carl Styan and Mr. Lanish Madame Carl Styan and Mr. Lapish.

In preparation for the next Leeds Festival the Committee have very wisely decided to continue the plan, adopted three years ago with such success, of obtaining choral contingents from all the chief West Riding towns.

Arrangements have been made with the choral societies of Arrangements have been made with the choral societies of Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, Dewsbury, and Batley for the supply of voices, and it is intended to increase the total strength of the chorus from 340 to 350.

MUSIC IN NEW ZEALAND. (FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A FESTIVAL, on the scale of similar gatherings in England, has just been concluded (October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in Wellington, the capital of the colony. Its success has been very remarkable, both from a musical and a popular point of view. It was held on six consecutive nights, and the large and handsome Opera House (which holds 1,700 people) was crowded to the doors by an enthusiastic audience every night of the week. Indeed, on some evenings, many people were unable to secure even standing room. The scheme of the Festival included Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," Haydn's "Creation" (Parts 1 and 2), Dvorák's "Spectre's Bride," Handel's "Israel in Egypt," and Sullivan's "Golden Legend." A miscellaneous programme, which included Schumann's Symphony (No. 1) and two scenes from the third act of "Tannhäuser" was also given; and a short choral and orchestral work by a young Wellington, the capital of the colony. Its success has also given; and a short choral and orchestral work by a young local composer, Mr. A. F. Hill, lately a student at Leipzig. The musical Director of the Festival was Mr. Robert Parker, Organist of the Anglican Cathedral and Conductor of the Harmonic Society; and associated with him on the committee of management were Mr. T. Tallis Trimnell, Mr. T.C. Webb (Organist of St. Mark's Church and formerly of Ilfracombe), and several gentlemen of business standing in the city. The committee was most fortunate in securing an able organiser and secretary in the person of Mr. Theo.

H. Ritchey, who devoted months of arduous labour to the preliminary work of the Festival. The chorus, numbering nearly 250 voices, which had been very admitted that the "Hallelujah" chorus, with the 3,000

thoroughly drilled by Mr. Parker, proved to be the great feature of the performances; and in the difficult choral work of "The Spectre's Bride," no less than in the more familiar numbers of the "Lobgesang" and "Israel," its efforts excited the greatest enthusiasm. The orchestra numbered nearly sixty performers, ably led by Mr. Macduff Boyd, a local violinist of capacity and experience, and, making due allowance for the remoteness of the colony and the necessarily large proportion of amateurs in its ranks, it did very excellent work throughout a most exacting week. The soloists were Madame Fanny Bristowe (soprano), Mrs. H. Burfoot (contralto), Mr. Charles Saunders (tenor), Mr. A. H. Gee and Mr. John Prouse (baritone and bass). Mr. A. H. Gee and Mr. John Prouse (baritone and bass). All were thoroughly capable, and the three latter quite exceptionally so. Mr. Gee has a superb baritone voice and great dramatic power, and his singing of the exacting music of "The Spectre's Bride" was quite worthy of an English Festival performance. Dvorák's picturesque work made quite an extraordinary impression, and had to be repeated on an extra night; it drew two audiences, numbering over 3,000 people, in a city of only 35,000 inhabitants. The Festival was opened by a brief address from His Excellency the Earl of Glasgow, who, with his family and suite, attended every performance but one throughout the week.

"THE MESSIAH" IN SOUTH AMERICA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AYRES, November 15, 1894. UNTIL within the last four years matters musical have been in a very undeveloped state here. Although we possess a German Sing-Akademie, which gives most excellent Concerts, having just passed its 120th performance, the efforts of the British community have been confined to an occasional miscellaneous Concert, never of a very high character, for charitable purposes. The establishment, some four years since, of the English Choral Union has, however, done much in educating the taste of the public, and the Society now always commands an audience. Hitherto the work of the Union has been an audience. Hitherto the work of the Union has been principally confined to selections and cantatas, "The Ancient Mariner" being its last production. The decision of the committee to give "The Messiah" was welcomed and they at once received plenty of promise of support. The normal chorus of the Society is about 140 members, but, aided by contingents, chiefly from the choirs of outlying churches, it was able to command at once a fairly efficient holy of voices of 200 under the holder. of Mr. W. H. R. Nicholson. The interest in the production daily increased. Reproductions of huge photographs of the Crystal Palace Handel Orchestra caused great commotion among the natives; and on the night of the Oratorio, the 5th inst., the Teatro de l'Opera was crowded to its utmost capacity, the presence of the President of the Republic, his wife (Señora Saenz Pena),

and family adding much to the interest.

The Opera House, though not the largest of the numerous theatres in the city, is the most central, fashionable, and modern, and is magnificently built and decorated, rivalling most European opera houses. It has a seating accommodation of 2,900, and, every seat being occupied, the house had the appearance of a Patti gala night.

The rendering of the choral and orchestral work was

excellent. The committee were fortunate in being able to secure the services of the principal members of the Italian Opera orchestra, and the sixty instruments of which the opera orchestra, and the sixty instruments of which the band was composed were worthy to play in any festival performance, the strings being an unusually fine body of instrumentalists, who fairly well mastered the spirit of the music. The choir gave its share of the work creditably for a first performance, and though at times old musiclovers missed the fine finish and noted the absence of points to which we had been accustomed in English versions, the performance, as a whole, was of considerable merit, several of the choruses being given with vigour, precision, and breadth. Only in regard to the soloists was there any shortcoming, all being unequal to the task in a building of

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great miliar which mn of people upstanding, was the most remarkable musical demonstration ever seen or heard in this city of much music. La Nacion, a leading paper, published a thoughtful account of the performance and an able criticism of the music, especially on the value and influence of the Handelian fugal writing.

The amount realised from the performance was 7,500 dollars. Two days later, at the request of the wife of the President of the Republic, a second performance was given for the benefit of the funds for the recent earthquakes in Rioja and San Juan, and the British Sailors' Home.

It is hoped that the next performance will be given in the new Prince George's Hall, now in course of erection specially for musical and dramatic performances by the English community.

It is always satisfactory to hear of the formation of new choral and orchestral societies, for they are the best practical proof of the increasing love and appreciation of the art, and each one may be regarded as a centre conducive to still further diffusion of musical knowledge. no less satisfactory to receive assurance of the flourishing condition of old established Institutions. Such assurance is afforded by the performance, on the 5th ult., of "The Messiah" by the Gravesend and Milton Choral Association, which gave its first Concert in 1879, and has since that date continued uninterruptedly to give proof of its vitality. Great credit is due to the committee, not only for the perseverance and energy displayed during this period, but also for the excellent choice of works performed; the list including the most important compositions from those of the great masters from Handel to Dr. Mackenzie. little of the success must be attributed to the almost unique fact that the Society has been faithfully served since its foundation by the same conductor, accompanist, and hon-secretary—Mr. Charles R. Green, Mr. Howard Moss, and Mr. R. Feaver Clarke—who may surely be styled three "good men and true."

A CONCERT was given in the Queen's (Small) Hall by Miss Gertrude Sichel and Miss E. Torrens-Johnson on November 28. The former exhibited much intelligence and dramatic feeling in Lully's "Bois épais," A. Scarlatti's "O cessate di piagarmi," Handel's "Lusinghe più care," and songs by Grieg, Brahms, and Richard Strauss, Miss Torrens-Johnson was heard to great advantage in Mendelssohn's "Variations sérieuses," the Romance in F and the "Ballade" of Brahms, the G minor Ballade of Chopin, and (with Señor Arbos) in Schumann's Sonata in D minor. The violinist played a Romance of Svendsen and one of Brahms's Hungarian Dances. Mr. Bispham sang Schubert's tragic "Der Zwerg" and the delicious "Stelldichein" of Hans Sommer. Miss Sichel, Miss Florence Christie, Mr. Walter Ford, and Mr. Bispham gave a first performance of a charming set of vocal quartets, entitled "Ukrainische Liebeslieder," by Iwan Knorr, the pianoforte part of which was played by Miss Torrens-Johnson. They pleased greatly and should become popular.

The excellent work being done in the East of London by Mr. C. H. Allen Gill was well attested on the 15th ult., when Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was performed by the choral and orchestral societies under his command at the People's Palace. The executants were about 200 in number, and gave many proofs of their earnestness and of having received good training. Of the two bodies the choir is decidedly the best, the majority of the choruses being sung in a most praiseworthy manner, the pianissimo attained in such passages as "Upon your faces fall" being particularly noteworthy. Mr Daniel Price was an able exponent of the part of the Prophet, Miss Alice Holman sang the soprano solos with intelligence and power, and Miss Hannah Jones and Mr. Iver McKay completed a very satisfactory quartet. Minor solo parts were rendered by Miss E. M. Johnstone, Miss L. Roberts, Mr. C. Karlyle, and Mr. Ben Grove; and Mr. B. Jackson gave skilful assistance at the fine organ. The performance was most attentively listened to by about 3,000 people.

MISS ANNIE C. MUIRHEAD began her series in the Thumpstead district of Concerts for children, on the 1st ult., Day.

in the Vestry Hall. This lady holds that if more attention were paid to training listeners than is the case at present the standard of musical excellence and enjoyment in England would be considerably heightened. She contends, too, that owing to their school duties, children residing in the suburbs of the metropolis have not the advantages of those living in smaller towns as regards the hearing of good music. Her plan at the Concerts specially organised for children is to briefly explain the form and general idea of the piece about to be performed, and thus assist the juveniles to learn how to listen to what will be set before them. Handel, Bach, and other of the older composers were represented in her inaugural programme, which opened with Goss's quartet "There is beauty on the mountain," sung by Misses Lillie Mills and Minnie Pryce, Messrs, Frank Edwards and Murdo Munro.

A PERFORMANCE of Gluck's "Orpheus," as a Concertroom work, took place in the Camden Athenæum, on November 27. Miss Alice Long organised the Concert and sang the music of the title rôle, with Miss Beatrice Pratt as Eurydice and Miss Edythe Frances as Amor. Having an efficient orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. J. Earnshaw, Miss Long was able to give all the beautiful music, which is scarcely ever heard except when the opera is staged, and her chorus of fifty were all picked singers familiar with the work. The principals sang well, especially Miss Pratt and Miss Long, the latter receiving a hearty encore for her rendering of "Che farò." Mr. Cecil Sharp, of the Finsbury Choral Society, conducted, and obtained a first-rate ensemble throughout. Altogether the Concert was one of more than usual distinction, and the hall was well filled, more especially in the front seats.

On the 18th ult. the Catford Choral Society, conducted by Mr. Alfred Furse, gave a Concert at St. James's Hall, Forest Hill, when the programme included Schubert's "Song of Miriam" and Dr. Mackenzie's "The Bride." The melodious and fascinating little work was performed with great refinement and precision, the beautiful, impassioned and original Love Duet making a deep impression as sung by Miss Kate Cherry and Mr. E. Branscombe. A number of part-songs, including Mr. Edward German's charming "O lovely May," were well sung. Miss Ethel M. Brissenden played a Rondo for the pianoforte by Hummel in excellent style, and besides the two vocalists named above, Mrs. Alfred Furse and Mr. W. H. Coltart were heard to great advantage; the lady choosing Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," and a new and expressive setting, by Mr. A. D. Arnott, of "O, wert thou in the cauld blast."

SPOHR'S "Last Judgment" was sung at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, on the evenings of the 7th and 14th ult.; the organ, as on previous occasions, supplying the place of an orchestra, and the skilful accompaniments rendering the services of a conductor unnecessary. The solo parts were allotted as follows: sopranos, Masters Wiltshire and Simpson; alto, Mr. Pearce; tenor, Mr. Leyland; and basses, Messrs. Courtney and Lake. The interpretation of the not too easy music was quite up to the level of preceding performances, and needs no higher praise. The effect of the beautiful duet "Forsake me not" was, in particular, most striking. Mr. Sergison's playing was, as always, brilliant and masterly, and well brought out the exceptional orchestral capabilities of his instrument.

The Queen's Hall Choral Society, presided over by Mr. William Carter, gave a second performance this season of the "Creation," on the 11th ult. The choir again sang with sufficient energy "Awake the harp," "The Heavens are telling," and other important numbers falling to their share, and at the same time were not neglectful of expression. In the soprano solos Miss Anna Williams once more distinguished herself. Mr. Iver McKay did justice to the tenor airs, and Mr. Norman Salmond was quite equal to the opportunities afforded in the music of Raphael. A capable band was led by Mr. J. T. Carrodus, and Mr. Arthur Fagge was at the organ. "The Messiah" was performed by the Society on Christmas Day.

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THE first Concert of the recently established "Society for the Cultivation of Modern Chamber Music" was given at Messrs. Brinsmead's Rooms, on November 28. It at Messrs. Drinsmead's Rooms, on November 25. It opened with an interesting, but rather eccentric, and not at all inspired Trio for clarinet, pianoforte, and violoncello, by the French composer, M. Vincent d'Indy. A String Quintet by Haydn, thoroughly characteristic of the master, and said to have been hitherto unheard in London, master, and said to have been hitherto unheard in London, and Parry's fine Partita in D minor, for violin and pianoforte, were the remaining instrumental works. Mr. Charles Draper played the clarinet, Mr. Gustave Ernest the pianoforte, and Mr. E. van der Straeten (Director of the Society) the violoncello. The violins and violas were in the hands of Messrs. R. Ortmans, A. Mistowski, L. Sozgenowski, and I. Brown. Szczepanowski, and J. Brown. Songs were contributed by Mr. Whitney Mockridge, and Mr. O. Meyer accompanied.

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MADAME FANNY MOODY and Mr. Charles Manners have issued the conditions of the operatic competition for their Prize of £ 100 together with five per cent. on the net receipts.

The opera is to play about an hour and a half, and there must be four characters (for soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass respectively), or not more than five. No chorus is to be required, and the action is to be laid in a room or garden. Composers are to send in their works under a nom de plume, and that of the successful competitor will be advertised on May 15 next, when the winner is expected to communicate his real name and address. Messrs. Joseph Bennett, Frederick Corder, and F. H. Cowen have consented to act as judges, and the opera they select will be first performed in a London theatre towards the end of May. On being applied to at 15, King Street, Portman Square, Mr. Charles Manners will furnish further particulars.

Mr. John Thomas, at the Salle Erard, on the 12th ult., gave a Harp Recital, interspersed with songs to accompaniment on the same instrument. His exceptional ability paniment on the same instrument. This exception in Parish as an executant was advantageously displayed in Parish Alvar's "La Danse des Fées" and "The Mandoline," as Alvar's "La Danse des Fées" and "The Mandoline," as well as in several compositions from his own pen. The latter included "Autumn" and "Winter" (portions of a Suite called "The Seasons"), the Study in F (No. 11), and arrangements of three Welsh melodies. Upon his performance of each of these Mr. Thomas was heartily complimented. Mrs. Mary Davies sang with her usual success Mendelssohn's "On wings of music," Goring Thomas's "Winds in the trees," John Thomas's "The memory of love" and "The Ash-Grove."

MDLLE. DOUSTE DE FORTIS headed her programme at Steinway Hall, on the 11th ult., with a Sonata for piano-forte and violin, Op. 24, in E minor, by E. Sjögren, a Northern composer as yet but little known in this country. The work evoked much interest, and, although unduly long, The work evoked much interest, and, although unduly long, was favourably received. The Andante sostenuto movement is the most agreeable of the four, a distinctive melody here obtaining clever treatment. The Sonata was admirably interpreted by Mdlle. Douste de Fortis and M. Réné Ortmans. Morceaux by Schumann, Chopin, and Scarlatti were, at a later period, expressively rendered by the pianist. Mdlle. Jeanne Douste sang, with much taste, airs by Mdlle. Chaminade and M. Bemberg, and joined Mr. Josef Claus in a duet from "Le Nozze di Figaro."

The Kyrle Choir, under the direction of Mr. F. A. W. Docker, gave a performance of "Samson," on November 28, at Christ Church, Endell Street. On the 5th ult. "St. Paul" was given at the Wesleyan Church, New North Road. The soloists were Miss Ada Loaring, Miss Beresford Joy, Mr. Willie Hart, and Mr. Arthur Appleby. On both occasions Dr. Turpin presided at the organ. On the 13th ult. "Elijah" was given in the Bedford Congregational Church. Somers Town, to an audience of blind people, by Church, Somers Town, to an audience of blind people, by request of the Blind Aid Society. The soloists were Miss Florence Spurgeon, Miss Alice McFarlane, Mr. David Watkins, and Mr. Arthur Appleby. Mr. Herbert Cooke accompanied on the organ.

THE London Choral Union naturally took advantage of the Econdon Choral Union naturally took advantage of the season by giving "The Messiah" at Queen's Hall, on the 18th ult. The choir boldly attacked the more difficult choruses, such as "And He shall purify," whilst their rendering of "For unto us" and similar massive numbers of the Guildhall School of Music. The work is not one to be lightly undertaken, but it went, on the

did not lack breadth of effect. Miss Emily Davies delivered the soprano airs with devotional feeling, but was better suited in the level passages of "Come unto Him" than in the florid "Rejoice greatly"; Madame Marian McKenzie and Mr. Norman Salmond gave effective readings of the Contratto and bass solos respectively, and Mr. Maldwyn Humphreys sang the tenor airs with adequate expression. The instrumental portions were well played, and Mr. James W. Lewis again proved himself an able Conductor.

An interesting Song and Pianoforte Recital was given by Miss Wakefield, Mr. Walter Ford, and Mr. Isidor Cohn, at the Princes' Hall, on Thursday afternoon, the Tath ult., the object being to illustrate cycles of songs by Beethoven, Schumann, and Brahms. The Bonn Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms. The Bonn master was represented by the beautiful Liederkreis "An die ferne Geliebte," Schubert by some of "Die Schöne Müllerin," Schumann by the "Frauenliebe und Leben" (Op. 42), and Brahms by selections from the "Magelone Lieder," very charming songs. They were all carefully rendered by Miss Wakefield and Mr. Ford, and Mr. Cohn played Chopin's Préludes, which are scarcely suitable for performance at one Concert, as many of them are too performance at one Concert, as many of them are too

MISS GRACE HENSHAW and Mr. Frederik Frederiksen, two clever young instrumentalists, imparted much interest to their Concert, on the 3rd ult., at the Queen's (Small) Hall, by including in their programme Emil Sjogren's attractive second Sonata in E minor (Op. 24) for pianoforte and violin—a work which, by the freshness of its themes and their rational and consequently effective development, should acquire a permanent place at our Chamber Concerts. Miss Henshaw was also heard in pianoforte pieces by Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, and Rachmanioff, and Mr. Frederiksen contributed some violin solos with much acceptance. The vocalists were Madame Isabel George and Mr. Bertram Wallis.

In St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 4th ult., "The Last Judgment" was given, according to custom, on the first Tuesday in Advent as the anthem in the evening service. Spohr's devotional strains were rendered with the fullest Spohr's devotional strains were rendered with the fullest effect by the choir belonging to the Cathedral, and instrumental support was derived from a small professional orchestra. Heard amid such surroundings, "Praise His awful Name," "Lord God of heaven and earth," and "Destroyed is Babylon, the Mighty," proved more than ordinarily impressive. Dr. Martin conducted and Mr. Hodge was at the organ. The service included the Psalms "Deus Deorum" and "De Profundis," sung to chants by Purcell and Felton respectively. Purcell and Felton respectively.

MR. GEORGE F. GEAUSSENT and M. L. Duloup were associated in a Pianoforte and Violin Recital at the Hampstead Conservatoire, on November 24. They were heard together in Grieg's Sonata in F (Op. 8), and in the "Kreutzer" Sonata of Beethoven, the performance in t "Kreutzer" Sonata of Beethoven, the performance in each instance being highly praiseworthy. For solos, Mr. Geaussent selected Chopin's "Andante Spianato" and Grand Polonaise in E flat (Op. 22); and M. Duloup played the Andante from Max Bruch's second Violin Concerto, Tschaïkowsky's "Serenade Mélancolique," and Wieniawski's Polonaise in D major. Vocal pieces by Sullivan and Clay were pleasingly contributed by Mr. W. F. Packer.

MISS MARIE BUSCH and Miss Ellen Schliepper made a favourable impression on November 30, at the Queen's (Small) Hall. The former is a soprano vocalist gifted with musical perceptions, as attested by her renderings of songs by Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms; the latter, a pupil of Leschetizky, is a young pianist of exceptional abilities. Assisted by Mr. J. Ludwig she played with marked intelligence Brahms's Sonata in G (Op. 78) for pianoforte and violin, and in Schubert's Impromptu in G (Op. 90), Chopin's Nocturne in C minor (Op. 48, No. 1), Liszt's second "Etude de Concert," and other pieces exhibited remarkable power of expression and executive command.

whole, extremely well, under the direction of Sir Joseph Barnby, though the esteemed Conductor was already beginning to suffer from the severe illness from which he is now happily recovering. Miss Jessie Hudlestone was charmingly sympathetic as Marguerite, and Mr. Lloyd Chandos as Faust and Mr. Charles Phillips as Mephistopheles did fairly well. The orchestra was praiseworthy, and the same may be said of the chorus, notwithstanding the inequality of the sections, the female contingent being in a large majority.

THE Colet Orchestral Society gave a Concert on the 5th ult., at Colet Court, St. Paul's Schools, Hammersmith. Besides the usual complement of "wind," partly professional, the orchestra numbers thirty strings, of which the first violins contain some good material; the other divisions are, however, as liberally supplied with "passengers" as the majority of amateur orchestral societies in the second year of their existence. The Society deserves credit for artistic aims, for the programme did not pander to frivolous tastes, and the playing, if not quite worthy of the music, showed signs of careful rehearsals and promised improvement. The Conductor was Mr. Arundel Orchard.

MR. THEODOR PLOWITZ, at his Concert at Steinway Hall, on the 4th ult., obtained valuable assistance from Mr. Tivadar Nachèz, Mr. Ben Davies, and others. With the violinist he played Grieg's Sonata in C minor (Op. 45), in spirited style, and afterwards gave with requisite impulse Liszt's Twelfth Rhapsodie. Mr. Nachèz also contributed some solos; Mr. Davies ably sang Schumann's "Mondnacht" and "Widmung" and other airs; Miss Agnes Janson did her best for a song by Grieg, "A Norway Champion," announced as "first performance"; and an encouraging dêbut was made by Mdlle. Paula Edenfeld, a young soprano.

An International Music Trades' Exhibition will be held at the Agricultural Hall in June next. The exhibition will be the first of its kind held in connection with the music trade, and will be in every way representative, including only such exhibitors as may be connected with the trade. These will be limited to manufacturers, importers, publishers, and such houses as may supply raw materials or component parts for the manufacture of musical instruments. An orchestra will be provided, and it is proposed in the afternoons and evenings to arrange high-class Concerts, both vocal and instrumental, under the direction of eminent Conductors.

An exceptionally agreeable Vocal Recital was given by the Misses Florence and Bertha Salter (soprano and contralto) at the Princes' Hall, on the afternoon of the 6th ult. Both the young ladies, who are natives of Devonshire, are well trained singers, and have the charm of manner and artistic temperament that usually make for popular success, and their programme was interesting because most of the pieces were unhackneyed. It included songs and duets by Martin, Caldara, Saint-Saëns, Hahn, Mozart, Vaccaj, Chabrier, Nicolo, Tiersot, and Chaminade, and these were pleasantly varied by violin solos played with refinement by Miss Christina Brumleu.

YET another series of Chamber Concerts was commenced by Mrs. Roskell in the Queen's (Small) Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 12th ult. The leading concerted features in the scheme were Beethoven's Quartet in F (Op. 59, No. 1) and Dvorák's splendid Pianoforte Quintet in A (Op. 81). Mrs. Roskell, who is an able pianist, played a Scherzo of Chopin's, and the leading violinist, Herr Elderhorst, proved himself an admirable executant alike in the concerted works and in Handel's familiar Sonata in A. The other instrumental executants were Mr. W. H. Eayres, Mr. A. Hobday, and Mr. Adolf Schmidt; and Miss Marie Brema contributed several songs with fine effect.

The St. Mary's Choral Society gave a Concert at the Bishop Wilson Memorial Hall, Islington, on the 14th ult., when a new cantata, "The Maid of Colonsay," by Erskine Allon, was performed. The performance was, on the whole, excellent, the solos being well sung by Miss Gertrude Izard, Miss Rose Dafforne, Mr. Gilbert Denis, and Mr. J. H. Macfarlane; the choruses, in which the chief interest of the work lies, being given with spirit by

the choir, under the direction of Mr. Sidney Hann. In the miscellaneous second part Mr. Hann appeared as solo pianist and composer, being recalled after playing his own new "Valse gracieuse."

An admirable Orchestral Concert was given, on the 11th ult., at Princes' Hall, by the pupils of the London Organ School, under the direction of Dr. G. J. Bennett. It was interesting not only on account of the merit shown by the performances generally, but also by reason of an unhackneyed programme. Tschaïkowskys "Fest-Marsch," a fine work composed for the Coronation of the late Czar, was given for the first time in England, and Taubert's comparatively unknown "Tempest" Overture was also included. Works by Beethoven, Bizet, Rubinstein, Weber, and Glinka were played in excellent style, and altogether the Concert gave ample evidence of the excellent training available at the Institution responsible for the Concert.

MR. RICHARD GOMPERTZ and his string quartet party gave their second Concert at the Salle Erard, on Wednesday evening, the 12th ult., the programme commencing with Smetana's Quartet in E minor, "Aus meinem Leben," which had been heard twice recently at the Popular Concerts. The other work of the same order was Beethoven's extraordinary Quartet in A minor (Op. 132), one of the master's latest creations. Mr. Gompertz played a new and very charming Barcarolle for violin, in D minor, by Mr. Emanuel Moór, and songs by Schubert and Schumann were delightfully rendered by Miss Fillunger.

THE Stock Exchange Orchestral Society started its operations for the season at the Queen's Hall, on the 19th ult. A performance of rare excellence included Haydn's Symphony in D (No. 2 of the Salomon set), the Overture to "Die Meistersinger"—no easy task for amateurs—Dr. Mackenzie's clever Overture "Britannia," Mr. C. H. Couldery's pretty "Cradle Song" in D flat, and a sparkling "Elfentanz" by Miss Clarisse Mallard. The male-voice choir was very praiseworthy in its rendering of glees and part-songs, and Mr. Santley was the vocalist. Mr. George Kitchin conducted with admirable tact and judgment.

MRS. HENSCHEL gave three delightful Vocal Recitals at the Salle Erard, on the afternoons of November 30 and the 7th and 14th ult. As usual with this refined and conscientious artist, the songs on each occasion were all of the highest class, and were rendered to perfection. At the first and second Recitals, Madame Augarde gave needful variety to the entertainment by her agreeable pianoforte solos; but at the third she was unable to appear, and Mr. Sons, the leader of the Scottish Orchestra, proved himself an admirable solo violinist in two movements from Mendelssohn's Concerto.

The Post Office Musical Society is making satisfactory progress. It began its fifth season in St. James's Hall, on the 6th ult., with an excellent performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," under the able direction of Mr. Sydney Beckley. The choruses were sung with spirit and precision, but a tendency to hurry the tempo should be repressed. Mrs. Mary Davies, Mrs. Henry R. Clayton, and Mr. Bernard Lane did justice to the solos; and the miscellaneous second part of the programme included pieces by Weber, Gounod, Brahms, and Professor Bridge.

MISS EMMA BARNETT'S skill as a pianist gave enjoyment to a numerous audience, on the 11th ult., in Queen's (Small) Hall. The most noteworthy works played were Schubert's expressive Sonata in B flat (written during the last year of the composer's life), Chopin's Berceuse and Ballade in G minor, J. F. Barnett's pleasing "Home Scenes," and the first performance of a graceful "Liebesiled" from the same pen. Madame Fonblanque sang with great charm an excellent selection of songs by Handel, Godard, Stanger, and Lehmann.

The third of Mr. Joseph Ivimey's popular Chamber Concerts was given on Saturday afternoon, the 1st ult, at the Assembly Rooms, Surbiton. The programme included Schubert's Trio in E flat, Op. 100, and Beethoven's Trio in B flat, No. 4, Op. 11. The performers were Mr. John W. Ivimey (pianoforte), Mr. Joseph Ivimey (violin), and Mr. Arthur Blagrove (violoncello); vocalist, Miss Helen Pettican.

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Club took Hans Bro THE second Concert this season of the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society took place in the Queen's Hall, on the 21st ult., under the direction of Mr. George Mount. The novelty of the Concert was an intermezzo, "Eros and Psyche," by J. F. H. Read. Other orchestral works were Mackenzie's overture "Britannia" and Bizet's suite "L'Arlésienne." Miss Mabel Chaplin and Miss Katie Leonard appeared as instrumentalists, and Madame Amy Sherwin and Miss Katherine Fisk as vocalists.

On the 4th ult. the employés of the Army and Navy Auxiliary Stores gave a highly creditable performance of "The Jackdaw of Rheims," with Miss Kate Cherry, Mrs. Woodhouse, Mr. Stirling Wells, and Mr. Robert Grice as soloists. The choruses and orchestral accompaniments were well rendered, and it was evident that considerable care had been given to their preparation, under Mr. J. Darch and Mr. C. E. Weekes. The accompanists were Miss Ada Lee and Mr. E. W. Sturt.

On the 18th ult. the violin class Concert of the students at the South London Institute of Music took place. One hundred violinists of both sexes occupied the orchestra, and, with the addition of violas, violoncellos, and basses, capital performances were given, under the direction of Mr. T. E. Gatehouse. Miss Bonnett and the London Glee Singers were the vocalists. Mr. Gatehouse played a number of violin solos, and Mr. Sidney Venables accompanied throughout in a very able manner.

MR. F. G. Edwards gave his Lecture on "Mendelssohn" at Richmond, on the 13th ult., and at New Barnet, on the following evening, to crowded audiences. Amongst the autographs exhibited was a letter from Mendelssohn to William Bartholomew (the English translator of "Elijah"), in which the composer says, "The song' Sei stille dem Hern' ('O rest in the Lord') must be left out." The musical illustrations were given by local performers.

The annual Concert of the violin classes of the Birkbeck Institution, on the 19th ult., under the direction of Mr. T. E. Gatehouse, assisted by Mr. W. Thornton, was an unqualified success. The programme, mainly instrumental, was agreeably varied by the vocal selections of Miss Mary Hay and Mr. George Wood; and the solos of Messrs. Gatehouse (violin), C. H. Allen Gill (violoncello), and Mr. Izard (pianoforte) were each encored.

A LARGE size reproduction of the portrait of Beethoven, now in the possession of the Brunswick family, will be presented with the New Year's number of the Musical Standard, issued on the 5th inst. This portrait, which represents the composer at about the age of thirty-four, comparatively speaking the happiest period of his life, has never been published here, and will be, we believe, entirely new to British admirers of the great tone-poet.

MENDELSSOHN'S "Elijah" was given in Mount View Church, Stroud Green, on the 14th ult. The chorus, consisting of the Harecourt Choral Association, numbered nearly 200, and the principal parts were ably sustained by Miss Maggie Davies, Miss Amy Wood, Mr. John Probert, and Mr. Robert Grice. The pianist was Miss Wildman and the organist Mr. E. Drewett. Mr. John E. Borland conducted.

A CONCERT was given on November 28 by Miss Lillie Hirons, at the Central Hall, Acton. The vocalists were Miss Lillie Hirons, Madame Eliza Thomas, Messrs. S. Masters and Ben Griffiths. Musical sketches were given by Mr. Quentin Ashlyn and solos by Miss Lizzie Pope (harp) and Mr. Edwin Hall (bassoon). Mr. Alfred Avery acted as accompanist.

A SUCCESSFUL Concert was given at the School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's Road, Southwark, on the 12th ult, when an interesting selection of music—Part 1, Sacred, and Part 2, Secular—was given by the students, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Hodge. In addition, there was a short Part 3, consisting of orchestral selections by the band, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Hall.

The second Sunday evening Concert at the Crichton Club took place on the 16th ult., under the direction of Hans Brousil. The programme included Schubert's String Berlin Music Teachers' Society.

Quartet in A minor, Beethoven's "Adelaide," and Mozart's String Quartet in D major (No. 7). The instrumentalists were Messrs. A. Kummer, F. Louis Schneider, W. H. Hill, Hans A. Brousil, and the vocalist, Mr. William Nicholl.

The terminal examinations at the Royal College of Music were concluded on the 20th ult., when the Council exhibitions were adjudged by the examiners as follows:—Francis Harford (singing), £10; Gustavus T. von Holst (composition), £5: Katherine Sims (pianoforte), £15; Harold C. Lock (violin), £15; Ernest V. G. Williams (organ), £10.

MR. J. T. CARRODUS will be presented this month with the freedom of the borough of Keighley, in commemoration of his jubilee as a public performer. Mr. Carrodus was born at Braithwaite, near Keighley, and made his first appearance, at the age of nine years, in January, 1845, at what was then the Keighley Mechanics' Institute.

A VOCAL and Instrumental Concert was given at St. Mary's Hall, Kilburn, on the 11th ult., by Mr. James W. Wallis and the Misses Edith and Florence Wallis, assisted by their pupils. The Orchestral Class played the Andante from Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony and a Gavotte and Trio for strings and pianoforte by the Concert-giver.

SIGNORINA PAOLA TEODORAS, assisted by Mdlle. Cécile Elieson, Signor Dabiero, and Mr. Barrington Foote, gave a Concert, on the 4th ult., in the Salle Erard. The ladies respectively played pianoforte and violin solos with brilliancy and intelligence.

THE Putney School of Music Orchestral and Choral Society commenced its eighth season by a successful performance of Dr. J. F. Bridge's work "The Cradle of Christ" and Mendelssohn's "As the hart pants," under the conductorship of Mr. Frank Barnard.

MISS ANNIE E. HOLDOM gave a Concert, on the 5th ult., at Morley Hall, Hackney, in aid of the Tottenham Church Restoration Fund. Among other pieces Miss Holdom played Weber's Concertstück, for which she was encored. A number of vocalists and other artists assisted.

An Organ Recital was given on the 8th ult., at St. Barnabas, Kentish Town, by Miss Frances Shortis, assisted by Miss A. McNicol as vocalist and Miss Daisy Frost as violinist.

SEÑOR SARASATE has been on tour in France and Germany during the past month, and among other pieces has frequently played Dr. Mackenzie's "Pibroch," which, he says, has been everywhere "enthusiastically received."

Handel's "Messiah," with orchestra, was performed in All Saints', South Lambeth, on the 19th ult. Mr. Henry Dart presided at the organ and Mr. Walter Attersoll (Organist of the Church) conducted.

SPOHR'S "Last Judgment" has been sung at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, on the Wednesdays during Advent, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Hodge.

OBITUARY.

THEODOR BÖTTJER, an excellent violinist, who was in former years for a long period Conzertmeister (leader) of the orchestra of the Bremen Subscription Concerts, and also first violin in a string quartet party. He died at Bremen on November 23, aged seventy-two.

CARL HERRMANN, Kammervituoso, and for forty-one years first fagotto player in the Court Orchestra, Stuttgart, in which town he died on November 12, aged sixty-four.

EDMUND KREIBIG, Oberregisseur at the Opera House, Frankfort-on-Main, where he died on November 13, aged forty-three.

PROFESSOR DR. JULIUS ALSLEBEN, an excellent pianoforte teacher, organist, and musical littérateur, at Berlin, on the 9th ult., aged sixty-two. Born in Berlin on March 24, 1832, he studied music under Leuchtenberg, Zech, and Dehn. For many years he was President of the Berlin Tonkünstlerverein, and was also one of the founders of the Berlin Music Teachers' Society.

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chamber it ult., at included Trio in John W. and Mr.

REGIERUNGSRATH LEOPOLD ALEXANDER ZELLNER, at Vienna, on November 24, aged seventy-one. Besides being the composer of numerous choral works, such as oratorios, masses, &c., he was Professor of Harmony at the Vienna Conservatoire of Music from 1868, when he took the place of Sechter, who had just died. In former years he edited the Blätter für Musik, and he also occupied the post of Chief Secretary to the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde

until 1892, when he retired on a pension.

GEORG MERTEL, Royal Musikdirektor, and for many years conductor of several musical societies in Erfurt,

where he died, on November 16, aged sixty-four.

CANON WILLIAM COOKE, M.A., F.S.A., one of the editors of the "Hymnary," on November 23, at 6, Clifton Place, Sussex Square, aged seventy-three.

CHARLES SIEBERT, a bass singer of promise, and the Hon. Secretary of the Tonic Sol-fa Association, on November 23

GEORGES BACHMANN, composer of a great many pianoforte pieces. He died, after a long illness, in the Beaujon Hospital, aged forty-six.

IPPOLITO RAGGHIANTI, a violinist of great talent, a pupil of M. César Thomson at the Liège Conservatoire, and a composer of more than average promise. Amongst his works are a Symphonie Thématique, a Violin Concerto, Nine Morceaux de Salon (published as No. 7 of Novello's Albums for violin and pianoforte), and a short opera, which has been accepted for performance at Nice, but of which the poor composer was unable to finish the orchestration. He died in his native place, Viareggio, near Pisa, after a long and painful illness, aged twenty-seven.

JAMES AITKEN, who was for many years on the staff of the North British Daily Mail, Glasgow News, and the Glasgow Evening Citizen, in the capacity of musical critic. Mr. Aitken, who died at Glasgow, on the 3rd ult., was a well-informed musician and wielded the pen of a graceful and ready writer.

FREDERICA HANKINSON, a lady who was universally esteemed in the profession of her adoption, met with an awfully sudden death on the 19th ult. She had previously been suffering from heart trouble, and a sudden attack ended a useful career while she was in the act of conducting some concerted music at a school Concert near her residence in Rock Ferry.

WILLIAM HENRY HUNT, the first Doctor of Music created by the London University, died, on the 6th ult., at Birkenhead, where he had resided for nearly twenty years. Although hardly at any time to be reckoned as of robust constitution, his work had pursued a regular course until the spring of 1894, when, while giving one of the lectures commissioned by the City Corporation at the Liverpool Music School, he was smitten with paralysis. As a composer, Dr. Hunt was best known by his "Stabat Mater"a fine work, composed as the exercise for his Doctor's degree, and published by Novello and Co. He had also written a number of vocal solos and part-songs, as well as two comic operas, one of which was styled "Utopia," three years or so before the title was adopted by the Savoy organisation. Dr. Hunt, whose age was only forty-three, leaves a widow and family of five children.

PROFESSOR PAUL WIEPRECHT, Royal Kammervirtuoso, oboe player of great excellence, and teacher of his instru-ment at the Königliche Hochschule für Musik, Berlin. He died on the 7th ult., at Schöneberg, near Berlin, aged fifty-five.

PROFESSOR DR. GUSTAV GUNZ, a tenor vocalist, for twenty-seven years one of the most prominent artists of the Court Opera, Hanover, and also well known in Germany as a concert singer. From 1888 he was Professor of singing in Frankfort-on-Main, in which town he died on the 11th ult., aged sixty-two.

MR. BASIL TREE has opened a branch office for the sale of Concert tickets at 304, Regent Street, in proximity to

HUMPERDINCK'S opera "Hänsel und Gretel," which has created so great an impression on the Continent, was produced at Daly's Theatre on Boxing Night, for the first time in England, too late for notice in our present issue.

CORRESPONDENCE.

YORKSHIRE CAROLS:

"GEORGE RIDLER'S OVEN."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES,"

SIR,-At this present time of the year I venture to send you the air of a traditional Yorkshire Christmas Carol, which, so far as my own library of carol books extends, does not appear to have yet been printed. Possibly a more far-reaching search might reveal it.

The tune is certainly old, and has been popular with generation after generation of children carol singers in Leeds and district. It is sung to the ever-favourite wassailing song, "Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green."

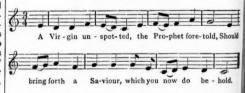
"HERE WE COME A-WASSAILING."



Sir John Stainer, in his "Christmas Carols," gives a traditional tune to the same words, and one appears in Miss Broadwood and Mr. Fuller Maitland's "English County Songs." Versions varying more or less from these are also, along with the one I send, sung in Leeds.

Another carol which was formerly sung in Yorkshire country places to the words "A virgin unspotted" varies from the air given by Sandy, Husk, and Stainer, but I believe it is equally old with theirs.

"A VIRGIN UNSPOTTED."



In last month's "From my Study," in The Musical Times, mention was made of the quaint song "George Ridler's Oven," and a regret was expressed that the song and air were not included in "English County Songs" (mentioned above).

The aim of that work appears to have been, in general merely to give traditional airs hitherto unpublished; and possibly the editors omitted the song from the fact that the tune for it is already printed in the first edition of Wm. Chappell's work—viz., "National English Airs," 1838, p. 102. It is the same air as the Gloucestershit Wassail Song, the words of which have been so frequently reprinted; Husk also gives the air. Before I became acquainted with these printed copies I myself noted it down from a Gloucestershire singer to the Wassail Song. "George Ridler's Oven" is a remarkable production containing rauch homely truth and humour. One cannot but admire the delicate way in which Cocardia to the

but admire the delicate way in which George's bald head is hinted at:

And George he was a jolly old man, And his head it growed above his hair.

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this wou employe the platf A characteristic touch shows the prerogative of the eldest son, for while Dick will sing treble and John the "mean," or second, voice-

George he wor the eldest brother, And therefore he would sing the bass.

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Dixon, in his "Songs of the Peasantry," gives the words, accompanied by a political "key," reprinted from words, accompanied by a political "key, reprinted from a report of the Gloucestershire Society, 1835. Whatever political meaning the song may have had afterwards applied to it, I feel sure that none was intended by the simple-minded bard who produced the lyric; and though the ditty is old, I rather question whether it is quite so early as Charles the Second's time. The whole song, starting with cursory mention of George Ridler's oven and of George himself, tells us how George "made his brag before he died, with any three brothers his sons should sing. After the verse descriptive of the pitch of the sons' voices, it bursts out into a verse of the old song (see the "Roxburgh Ballads"), "My dog and I," and a fragment of "Todlen Hame"—evidently the two ditties intended to silence all-comers. I have met people in Berkshire, North of the district where Thomas Hughes places the song, who could sing "George Ridler's Oven," but, owing to their shyness, I could never get them started. Perhaps some more fortunate reader could tell us if the air is still sung as Chappell and Husk give it, as under:-

"GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL SONG." (From Chappell.)



REFORM ON THE ORCHESTRA. TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—(a.) In your December issue appears a criticism of an important Orchestral Concert (given in London) wherein the playing of the trombones is severely commented upon
—indeed, the "amusing" and "irritating" loudness of
these instruments seems to have spoilt what would otherwise have been an excellent performance. Now, this overloudness of the trombones-and their near relatives, the loudness of the trombones—and their near relatives, the trumpets—is an infliction of which lovers of good orchestral music are constantly complaining. Yet why is a remedy never thought of? It is often said that the fault is the conductor's—that he ought to "keep the trombones down." way of subduing the trumpet's and trombone's naturally large volume of tone than to say, "please play more softly?" How would the "strings" like to have to play through a whole programme mezza voce, with the mute on? This is virtually what the offending instrumentalists in question have to do, in order to be in balance with the rest of the band-and have to do it, too, at the expense of considerable physical pain and fatigue. The fact is that neither conductors nor players are really blameable in the matter: the grievance arises from the silly custom of placing the trumpets and trombones in of positions on the orchestra, whence they have to blast and blare carrement into the very faces of the audience. The bassoon has to breathe his dulcet aspirations heavenward; the oboe and clarinet-well, dans un tout autre sens; went the performer on the soft-toned waldhorn "lifts not his horn on high." No; to the trumpet and trombone solely (of all instruments!) is accorded the privilege of (metaphorically) hitting straight from the shoulder. ems to me foolish.

One way of mending matters would be to make the olayers stand with their backs to the audience; but this would be found inconvenient, even if mirrors were employed. I would suggest that they stand on the floor of should be just low enough to allow of the conductor being visible to the players, and which ought to be inclined slightly inwards at the ends, for the benefit of the occupants of the side seats. I think it would be found, if this simple little arrangement was properly carried out, that the players in question would be able to play mf, p, and even pp, in a natural manner, and with comfort to themselves and the audience.

(b.) I should like to take this opportunity of asking why, in the name of all that is artistic, the kettledrums and other instruments of percussion are perched in conspicuous places on the orchestra, where everyone can see them? No doubt the athletic display involved in an attempt to tune three drums at the same time, with only six bars' rest to do it in, arums at the same time, with only six bars' rest to do it in, may serve to while away the time for the programme boys; but it is terribly distracting to those who attend a concert for musical enjoyment. So are the more or less classic postures and gestures of the gentlemen in charge of the tambourine and cymbals. I do not see why the drums and the entire batteric de cuisine of the modern orchestra should not be brought down to the floor with the trombones and hidden as much as much as receible. My screen of cloth would be a help to this end.

(c.) Just one word more. These two little reforms would

be steps in the right direction-that is to say, in the direction of the hidden orchestra, a hint or two concerning which may interest some of your readers. The concert orchestra of the twentieth century will be completely hidden from the view of the audience; the chorus also, when there is one. The conductor shall not be seen, neither shall the tenor and bass soloists. Yea, even the soprano and contralto ditto shall be invisible to mortal eye! All will be hidden by a large curtain, which will reach from ceiling to floor and from wall to wall. And, lo! the musician will no longer be distracted by the spectacle of scraping fiddlers and thumping drummers; and in time the people will learn how to listen to music; some will have revealed to them something of the magic which Bayreuth pilgrims tell of- ot a strange spell which seizes them when the lights go quietly low, and beautiful sounds creep into life out of space.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully. ARTHUR E. GRIMSHAW.

Leeds, December 10, 1894.

A CORRESPONDENT asks:-" Can any old student of the Guildhall School of Music give me information of a glee which was sung there in either 1881 or 1882, called 'Evening,' and beginning-

The Sun descending in the West, The Evening Star doth shine, The birds are silent in their nests, And I must seek for mine.

Reply, A. L. P., 16, Tything, Worcester."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. Notices of concerts, of which programmes must invariably be sent, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted.

Our correspondents will oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes that may occur.

Correspondents are informed that their names and addresses must accompany all communications.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted.

The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music is always kept in stock, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the

MONTROSE.—Almost any good book on Harmony will give you this in-formation. Stainer's "Harmony Primer" (Novello and Co.) will probably suit your purpose. You may also consult the Harmony books of Macfarren, Prout, or Richter, which any musicseller will

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COUNTRY NEWS.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this summary, as all the notices are either collated from the local papers or supplied to us by correspondents.

ABERGAVENNY.—The Choral Society gave its first Concert on the 10th ult., in the Town Hall. The programme employed. I would suggest that they stand on the floor of cert on the 10th ult., in the Town Hall. The programme the platform, and play behind a screen of thick cloth, which consisted of Cowen's cantata "St. John's Eve" and a

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miscellaneous selection, the solos being sung by Miss Maggie Purvis, Miss Kate James, Mr. G. Banks, and Mr. D. Barri. The chorus and orchestra numbered 130 performers. Mr. Arthur Angle was leader, Mr. F. Bamford the pianist, Mr. T. Jenkins presided at the harmonium, and Mr. W. R. Carr conducted.

BARNSLEY.—The St. Cecilia Choral Society began its present season on November 29, in a most successful manner, by an excellent performance, at the Harvey Institute, of Handel's "Samson." A capable vocal quartet was provided in Miss F. de Boufflers, Miss M. L. Watson, Mr. W. Green, and Mr. W. Thornton; Mr. Tomlinson played the trumpet obbligato in "Let the bright Seraphim," and an efficient orchestra was ably led by Mr. Buckley. Mr. A. Benton conducted with customary skill.

Bedford.—The Musical Society concluded its twenty-eighth season, under the leadership of Mr. Diemer, in a most successful manner, on the 4th ult., by an excellent performance of Costa's "Eli." The soloists were Miss Florence Monk, Master Leonard Griffiths, Mr. Gawthrop, Mr. S. Heath, Mr. A. Beagley, and Mr. Ralph Pearce. The choruses were most effectively sung, and an efficient orchestra, led by Mr. Halfpenny and assisted by Mr. Ford and Mr. Bandey at harmoniums, played the instrumental portions.——Dr. E. H. Turpin gave an excellent Organ Recital, on the 13th ult., in St. Martin's Church, his programme including E. d'Evry's effective Overture for organ in C and Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in G minor.—On the 14th ult., in the Large Hall of the Bedford Kindergarten, a performance took place of Barnett's cantata "The Wishing Bell." The soloists were Miss Anderson, Miss Mackay, and Miss Gough; the pianist was Miss Swire, and the Conductor, Mr. Oliver O. Brooksbank.

Berkhamsted.—The Church Choral Society gave a Concert on November 28, when Bennett's "May Queen" was well sung, with Miss A. Whitfield, Miss F. Oliver, Mr. Herbert Loxley, and the Rev. H. D. Macnamara as soloists. Mr. J. T. Bayin officiated as accompanist at the pianoforte, Mr. W. H. London presided at the harmonium, and the Rev. C. J. Langley conducted.

BODMIN.—Mr. H. M. Lamerton gave his fourth annual Concert on the 6th ult., in the Wesleyan Assembly Room. The solos in a miscellaneous programme were interpreted by Miss Haswell, Miss A. May, Miss N. Stephens, Mr. W. J. Hillcox, and Mr. W. H. Jago. Instrumental selections were given by the Orchestral Society conducted by Mr. Lamerton, and two glees were sung by members of his choir.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On the 1st ult. Mr. William Lee played an interesting selection of organ music, including an Offertoire in E minor (Op. 10), by himself, and Bach's "St. Ann's" fugue, at St. Peter's Church.

CAERLEON. — Gade's "Erl-King's Daughter" and a miscellaneous selection were performed, by Mrs. Alfred Morris's able choir, on the 13th ult., in the Drill Hall. The soloists taking part were Mrs. Lang, Miss K. F. James, Mrs. J. P. Lewis, Mrs. Morris, Mr. W. Edmunds, Mr. C. Sier, and Mr. Arthur Morgan. Miss Jackson played a much-appreciated violin solo, and the orchestra opened the second part of the programme with Handel's "Occasional" Oratorio Overture.

CARMARTHEN.—The Choral Society gave its first Concert for the season on the 13th ult., in the Assembly Rooms, to a large and appreciative audience. The programme was a miscellaneous one, and included Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer," "Be not afraid," "Then shall your light" ("Elijah"), and Schubert's "The Lord is my Shepherd" (female voices). Amongst other soloists who took part were Miss A. Phillips, Mrs. James Davies, Mrs. R. M. Thomas, and Mr. James Morgan. Mr. Wesley Martin, Organist of St. Peter's Church, conducted. Miss May Rees and Mr. Smith presided at the pianoforte and American organ, and Miss May Williams accompanied one of the songs. The Concert was a thorough success.

CATON, NEAR LANCASTER.—At the opening of the new organ, recently erected in the Wesleyan Chapel by Messrs. P. Conacher and Co., on the 12th ult., Mr. W. Sutcliffe gave a Recital, which included the Overture to the "Occasional" Oratorio (Handel), Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Bach), and Grand Chorus (Guilmant).

Chard.—A successful Concert was given on the 6th ult., in the Corn Exchange, by the Harmonic and Orchestral Societies, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Edis Tidnam. The programme consisted of Cowen's "Rose Maiden," German's "Henry VIII." dances, and some minor pieces. The choruses of the cantata were well rendered, giving evidence of careful training and practice. The soloists were Miss Elsie Mackenzie, Mrs. Mayne, Mr. Theo. Taylor, and Mr. Frank White. Mr. F. Bartlett led the orchestra, and Mrs. J. Edis Tidnam and Mr. H. A. Jeboult were the accompanists.

Dorchester.—A well attended Concert was given at the Town Hall, on November 27, by the members of St. Peter's Choir and friends. The programme included Stainer's "Daughter of Jairus" and a miscellaneous second part. The soloists were Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Duke, Mr. A. Miles, and the Rev. A. Sewell. Mr. Edgar A. Lane conducted.—Miss Emma Bullen gave a very successful Concert at the Town Hall, on the 7th ult. The artists assisting were Madame Agnes Thayer, Mr. d'Arcy Clayton, Mr. Arthur Barlow, and Miss Ethel Beetlestone, the lastnamed playing both violin and pianoforte solos.

EGHAM.—The Choral Society, established at the beginning of this year, began its second season, on the 6th ult., in the Literary Institute, by praiseworthy performances of Mozart's "Twelfth Mass" and some miscellaneous pieces. The soloists were Miss A. Simona, Miss R. Dafforne, Mr. W. Clinch, Mr. B. Ranalow, and Mr. Willett, the last-named contributing a violoncello solo. The accompaniments were played by a small band, ably led by Miss H. Cross, with Miss Budgen as pianist and Mr. Williamson as organist, and Mr. S. Exton Swaffield conducted.

Enniscorthy.—Two successful Concerts were given, on the 5th and 6th ult. respectively, in the Athenæum, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Fitzgerald. The programmes consisted of an attractive collection of songs, duets, and choruses, the soloists being the Misses M. J. Courtney, M. Murphy, L. Courtney, J. Whelan, K. Lacy, C. Donohoe, Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. Kelly; and Messrs. M. J. Whelan, A. Fitzgerald, J. J. O'Brien, P. O'Toole, T. Moore, Captain Hammond, and Dr. Kelly.

Exeter.—The Orchestral Society, led by Mr. C. E. Bell, began its new season on November 29, under the conductorship of Mr. R. B. Moore. Beethoven's Symphomin C, Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" Overture, and that we the "Zauberflöte," by Mozart, and minor pieces, constituted an attractive programme which was rendered in an admirable manner. The vocalist was Mr. S. J. Bishop.—The Oratorio Society gave its 136th Concert on the 18th ult., the work chosen being Macfarren's "St. John the Baptist." The solos were excellently rendered by Miss N. Gosnell, Miss A. Macfarlane, Mr. Dean Trotter, and Mr. Dan Price. Mr. G. W. Lyon conducted.

Framlingham.—Spohr's "Last Judgment" was sung in a praiseworthy manner, on the 1st ult., in the Chapled the College, by the choir of thirty-six voices. Master & Watson sang the soprano solos, and Master W. R. Warren those assigned to the alto, the others being rendered by Mr. C. Constable and Mr. Alfred Pretty. Mr. A. C. Edwards, the School Organist and Music-master, played the Overture and Symphony and several other pieces on the organ with remarkable skill.

GRAYS.—At the Parish Church, on the 12th ult., Spohri "Last Judgment," with organ and orchestral accompanient, was effectively performed. The principal soloist were Miss F. Stevenson, Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. S. Brown, and Mr. Nash. The organ parts were tastefully played by Mr. W. H. Fraser, Organist of the Church, and the Rev. C. F. Box conducted.

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"Samson Cragg, M Roberts a Mr. C. Be GUILDFORD.—The Choral Society, conducted by Mr. Charles Wilkes, gave excellent performances of Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer" and Handel's "Acis and Galatea," on November 29, in the County Hall. Miss Kate Drew's renderings of the soprano solos were much appreciated, and Mr. A. Grover, Mr. F. Williams, and Mr. M. Tufnail gave effective interpretations of the other solo parts. The accompaniments were played by an efficient orchestra, ably led by Mr. G. Walenn.

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vn, and by Mr. LARGS, AYRSHIRE.—The Choral Society gave a successful performance of Haydn's "Creation" on the 17th ult. The soloists were Miss Kate Gray, Mr. Gledhill, and Mr. A. C. Young.

Lincoln.—An Organ Recital was given in St. Swithin's Church, on the 17th ult., by Mr. F. Pullein. The programme included pieces by Mendelssohn, Corelli, Dubois, Spohr, J. S. Bach, W. S. Bennett, and Salomé. Miss Ruston and Miss M. Ruston assisted as vocalists.

MADELEY, SALOP .- On the 18th ult. the Choral Society, ow in its nineteenth year, gave a very good performance of "The Messiah," with a band and chorus of ninety performers. The principals were Miss Mary Clare, Miss Emily Dones, Mr. William Anstice, and Mr. D. Harrison. Mr. Smart, of Newport, conducted, as usual.

PADIHAM.—The Choral Union gave a performance of "The Messiah," on the 10th ult., when the principal soloists were Miss Boufflers, Miss Fish, Mr. J. Shakespeare Robinson, and Mr. St. Clair Stott. Herr Jacoby led the orchestra and Mr. Worswick conducted.

PLYMOUTH.—The second annual Choir Competition in connection with the Sunday Schools of the Band of Hope Union took place on the 5th ult., when Messrs. W. H. Hannaford, C. T. Kühne, and H. Moreton decided that the merits of the competing choirs were in the following order: Sutton Place, Mutley Baptist, Sherwell, and Edgcumbe Street. Mrs. Hoskin, Miss E. Holt, Miss N. Edgeumbe Street. Mrs. Hoskin, Miss E. Holt, Miss N. Bulley, Mrs. Rowcliffe, and Mr. Humphrey contributed to the rest of the programme. — The new Philharmonic Society gave its first Concert, on the 12th ult., in the Guildhall, with decided success. The programme was the same as that of "Selection Day" at the recent "Handel Festival," and the soloists included Madame Clara Samuell, Miss Amy Bosworthick, Miss McGreeney, Miss N. Bulley, Mrs. Weeds, Mr. Barton McGuckin, and Mr. J. Bishop. The choruses were excellently sung, and valuable assistance was given in the accompaniments by Mr. H. Lake, who presided at the organ, and who also played Handel's Concerto in G. Mr. A. C. Faull, to whom great credit is due, conducted.

PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE.—A vocal and instrumental Concert, in aid of the church funds, was given in Dutton Schools, on the 7th ult. The miscellaneous programme was rendered by Miss Christine Lynch, Mr. Nelson Stokes, Mr. Cuthbert Blacow, Mr. N. Dumville, and Mr. W. T. Haworth, the accompanist being Mr. Ernest Harrison.

READING.—An effective performance of Handel's "Samson" was given, on the 11th ult., in the New Town Hall, by the Philharmonic Society, conducted by Mr. W. H. Strickland. A competent vocal quartet was provided in Miss Mabel Berrey, Miss Marie Hooton, Mr. John Probert, and Mr. Daniel Price. Mr. Rippon was the leader of the orchestra and Mr. J. C. B. Tirbutt presided at the

SCARBOROUGH. — On the 13th ult. "The Messiah" was sung by the Choral Union, the solo parts being taken by Miss T. Davy, Miss J. Langford, Mr. T. David, and Mr. A. F. Ferguson. Mr. W. H. Cass was leader of the orchestra, and Mr. A. M. Richardson conducted.

STAINLAND.—The Choral Union performed Handel's "Samson," on the 15th ult., with Miss Hallowell, Madame Cragg, Mr. J. Shakespeare Robinson, and Mr. William Roberts as soloists. The performance was very successful. Mr. C. Bettison led the band and Mr. Rickard conducted.

TRENT.-Mr. G. H. Fox, assisted by Mr. W. Stafford (violoncellist), gave his fourth public Organ Recital in the College Chapel, on the 13th ult., when he played Bach's Toccata in F, Guilmant's "Marche Nuptiale," and other

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The performance, by Mr. F. Hunnibell's Choral Society, of Sullivan's "Golden Legend," proved so successful that it was repeated on the 6th ult., in the Great Hall, Stanford's choral ballad "The Revenge" being added on that occasion. Miss Medora Henson, Miss Sarph Berry, Mr. F. Prescripto and Mr. Design Price Pri Sarah Berry, Mr. E. Branscombe, and Mr. Daniel Price were again a most efficient solo quartet; Mr. H. Haarnack led the orchestra, and Mr. C. H. Cronk was the organist.

Wallington.—The programme of the first Concert of the seventh season of the Musical Association, on the 13th ult., in the Parish Hall, consisted of Prout's cantata, "Alfred," and a miscellaneous selection, the solo vocalists being Miss C. Siviter, Mr. L. Fryer, and Mr. A. Wills.
The accompaniments were rendered by Mr. E. W.
Groocock and Mr. N. Carr, and Mr. G. F. Bruce conducted.

WEYBRIDGE. — Mr. J. Ivimey, assisted by Mr. A. Blagrove and Mrs. Helen Trust, were the executants of an excellent selection of high-class chamber music on the 8th ult., in the Village Hall.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—A new Oratorio, by Mr. G. H. Cox, entitled "Christus," consisting of sixty-nine numbers, was successfully produced, on the 13th ult., in the Agricultural Hall. The solos were well sung by Miss Ghita Corri, Miss E. Lloyd, Mr. Leyland, and Mr. Ackermann, and the choruses and instrumental portions of the work effectively rendered, under the able direction of the composer. Mr. Ward led the orchestra, and Dr. Mann presided at the

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS. — Mr. J. Harraway Slape, Organist and Choirmaster to Holy Innocents', Hornsey. —Mr. Frank Pullein, Organist and Choirmaster to the Parish Church, Wrexham, North Wales.—Mr. G. F. Bruce, Organist and Choirmaster to Beddington Parish Church, Surrey.

CHOIR APPOINTMENT .- Mr. Frank Percy (Tenor), to Holy Trinity Church, Southport.

DEATHS.

BORLAND.—On December 12, at 44, Highbury Place, Jessie, wife of John E. Borland, F.R.C.O. (younger daughter of Mrs. Bradshawe McKay), aged 28 years.

Graham.—On November 23, at 7, Greenbank Terrace, Morningside, Edinburgh, James Graham, aged 70.

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	11 11 11 11 11	" 229. " 230. " 231. " 232. " 233. " 234.	" 228. Four S " 229. " " 230. " " 231. " " 232. Second " 233. Third I " 234. Fantas	, 228. Four Sonatinas, , 229. " , 230. " , 231. " , 232. Second Réverie , 233. Third Postlude , 234. Fantasia in D m	, 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 229. " No. 30. " No. 323. " No. 323. Second Rèverie	, 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in 229. No. 2, in No. 2, in No. 3, in No. 3, in No. 4, in 231. No. 4, in Solution Service Servic	, 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in D min , 230. , No. 2, in G maje , 230. , No. 3, in A min , 231. , No. 4, in C maje , 232. Second Reverie	, 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in D minor . A 229. , No. 2, in G major 230. , No. 3, in A minor 231. , No. 3, in A minor 232. Second Reverie 233. Third Postude	n 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in D minorA. B. P. 229 n 230, No. 2, in G major, No. 3, in A minor, No. 3, in A minor, No. 3, in A minor, No. 4, in C major, No. 4, in C major	228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in D minor A. B. PLANT 229. " No. 2, in G major " " 230. " No. 3, in A minor " " 231. " " No. 4, in C major " " 232. Scond Reverie B. LUARD SELBY 233. Third Postude " ALAN GRAY 234. Fantasia in D minor "ALAN GRAY	, 228. Four Sonatinas, No. 1, in D minor A. B. PLANT I 229. ", "No. 2, in G major ", " I 230. ", "No. 3, in A minor ", " I 231. ", No. 4, in C major ", " I 232. Second Rèverie B. LUARD SELBY I 233. Third Postlude " B. LUARD SELBY I 234. "

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CONTENTS.

	00111211101				
				P	age
	1805				9
	From my Study (with Illustrations)			**	11
	Musical Monstrosities				15
	A Short Glossary of Musical Terms (Up to Date)			17
	Occasional Notes				18
į	Facts, Rumours, and Remarks				21
ĺ	Savoy Theatre-" The Chieftain"		• •		22
ı	Royal Choral Society	* *			23
١	London Symphony Concerts	* *			23
ı	Wagner Concerts	• •	• •		23
ı	Crystal Palace Concerts	• •	• •		23
١	Mr. Moberly's Concert	• •	• •	• •	24
ĺ	Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts				24
ı	Thursday Subscription Concerts	••		**	25
ł	Mr. Emil Sauer's Planoforte Recitals	Dacita!	8		25
ı					26
Į	D1C-11 CM 1-	* *	• •		26
1	D. LOU CM : O	• •	••	•••	26
I	Daniel A. A. Carl				26
1	David And my of Music Lastunes		• •	**	27
1		. **			27
i	Royal Aquarium, Westminster		• •	• •	27
İ	Trink to an Dillitary and Carleton	• •	• •	• •	28
Į		* *		• •	23
İ	Reviews		• •		29
ı	Foreign Notes		••		31
1	Music in Bristol	•••			39
I	Dublin		• •	**	40
l	" Dundes	• •			40
ł	Foot Amelia				40
ł	" Edinburgh				41
ı	Glasgow				42
l	Liverneel				42
l	, Manchester			٠	43
l	North Staffordshire				43
ĺ	,, Northumberland and Durham				44
l	Nottingham				44
ł	Oxford				45
ŀ	Sheffield				45
l	Wilts and Hants				45
l	Yorkshire				46
ı	, New Zealand				47
ı	" South America-" The Messiah"				47
ı	Four-part Song-"Spring."-F. H. Cowen				33
	Anthem-" The Story of the Cross.' - Myles I	3. Fost		xtra	00
	Supplement).				
	General News (London)				48
	Obituary				51
	Correspondence				52
	Answers to Correspondents				53
	Brief Summary of Country News				53
ı	List of Music published during the last Month				56
				_	-

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The Composer is indebted to H.R.H. The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) for the drawings representing respectively Shadow and Sunshine, graciously designed for these two Volumes by Her Royal Highness.

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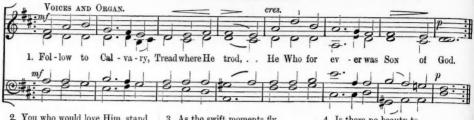
-The Question.



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(3)

II.—The Answer.*

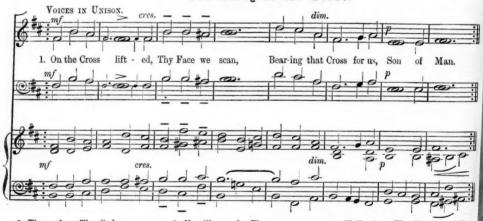


- 2. You who would love Him, stand Gaze at His Face; Tarry awhile on your Earthly race.
- 3. As the swift moments fly
 Through the Blest Week,
 Read the great story the
 Cross will teach,
- 4. Is there no beauty to
 You who pass by,
 In that lone Figure which
 Marks that sky?





III.—The Story of the Cross.

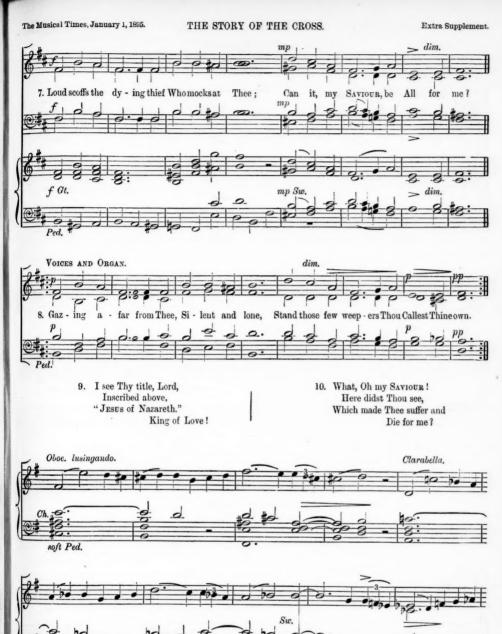


- 2. Thorns form Thy diadem,
 Rough wood Thy throne,
 For us Thy blood is shed,
 Us alone.
- 3. No pillow under Thee
 To rest Thy Head,
 Only the splintered Cross
 Is Thy bed.
- 4. Nails pierce Thy Hands and Feet, Thy Side the spear; No voice is nigh to say Help is near.

Shadows of midnight fall
 Though it is day;
 Thy friends and kinsfolk stand
 Far away.

6. Loud is Thy bitter cry;
Sunk on Thy Breast
Hangeth Thy bleeding Head
Without rest

^{*} This may be sung by all the Basses in Unison.





d Feet,

ear.

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1

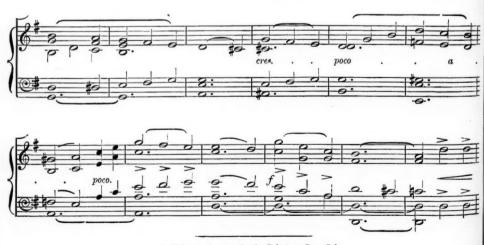
IV.—The Appeal from the Cross.*





2. I saw thee wandering
Far off from Me:
In love I seek for thee,
Do not flee.

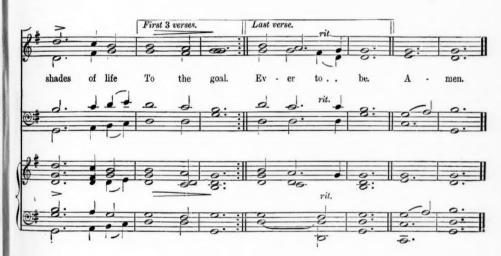
- For thee My blood I shed,
 For thee alone:
 I came to purchase thee
 For Mine own.
- Weep not for My grief, Child of My love, Strive to be with Me in Heaven above.



* This may be sung by the Priest. or Bass Solo.







2.

mf Yes, let Thy Cross be borne

Each day by me,

Mind not how heavy, if

But with Thee.

3.

mp Lord, if Thou only wilt

Make us Thine own,
Give no companion, save

Thee alone,

4.

ff Grant thro' each day of life
To stand by Thee;
With Thee, when morning breaks,
Ever to be. Amen.

(7)

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592. 594. 596.	Come, weary pilgrim, con I will feed My flock Whosoever drinketh of th		r		Ferris Tozer. J. F. Bridge. J. T. Field.	5 5 5
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600. 601.	As it began to dawn			• •	Frank L. Moir. Myles B. Foster.	6
603.	Crossing the bar			1	H. H. Woodward.	6
605.					Charles Bradley.	6
606. 600.	O God, who is like unto T There were shepherds	nee		• •	Myles B. Foster.	6
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614.					Arnold D. Culley Varley Roberts.	6
617. 618.	Tell			•••	Iosiah Booth.	6
621.	With all Thy hosts				John E. West.	6:
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